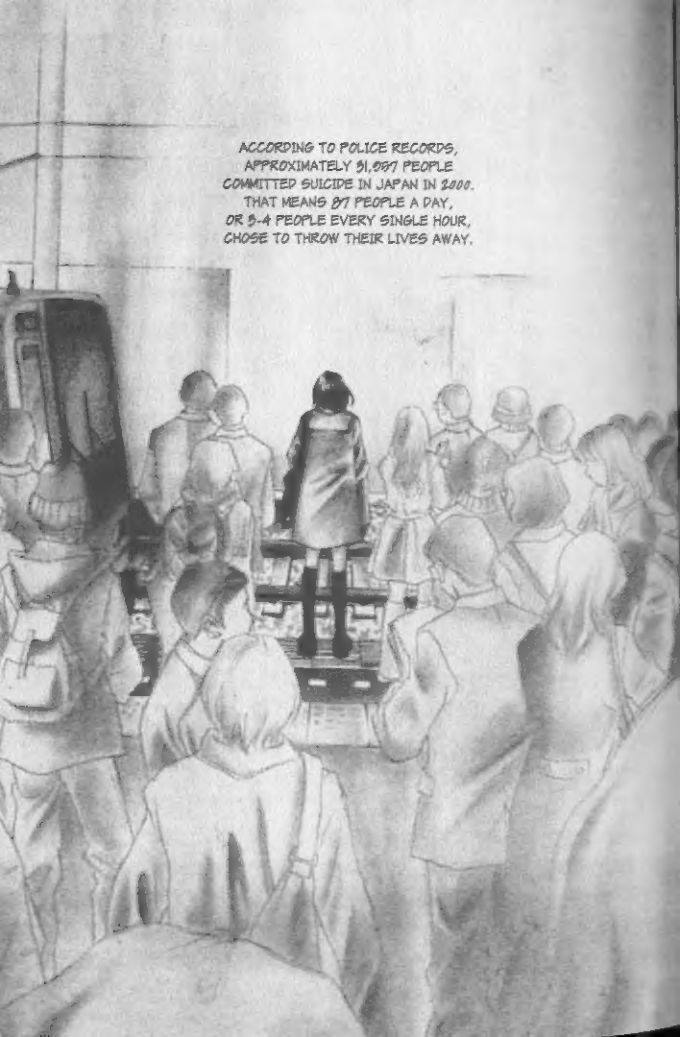
<Contents>

The Door 7

Mistakes 153


ACCORDING TO POLICE RECORDS,
APPROXIMATELY 31,957 PEOPLE
COMMITTED SUICIDE IN JAPAN IN 2000.
THAT MEANS 87 PEOPLE A DAY,
OR 3-4 PEOPLE EVERY SINGLE HOUR,
CHOSE TO THROW THEIR LIVES AWAY.

とびら
The Door

.....
3/12/1996
RIGHT ELBOW
8/20/1996
LEFT ANKLE
1/17/1997
RIGHT KNEE
11/9/1997
LEFT ELBOW
7/6/1998
LEFT KNEE
12/12/1998
RIGHT WRIST

MORNING...
YOU SHOULD GET UP AS SOON AS YOUR ALARM GOES OFF. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'VE BEEN UP STUDYING ALL NIGHT.

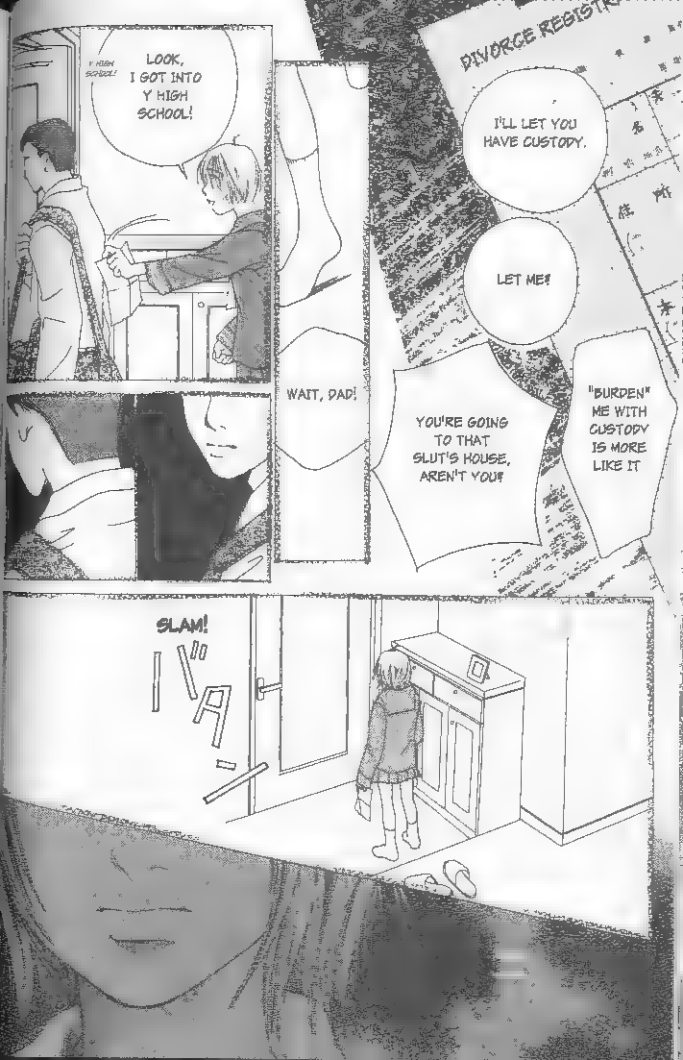
スイー
スイー
バタン
SEE YOU LATER.
Sigh...
スイー
スイー
MY MOM...
DAD LEFT HOME 8 MONTHS AGO.
BUT THEY PROBABLY ALREADY KNOW...
SHE HANGS OUT DAD'S SHIRTS WHERE EVERYONE WILL SEE THEM, SO NO ONE WILL FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED.
1-A

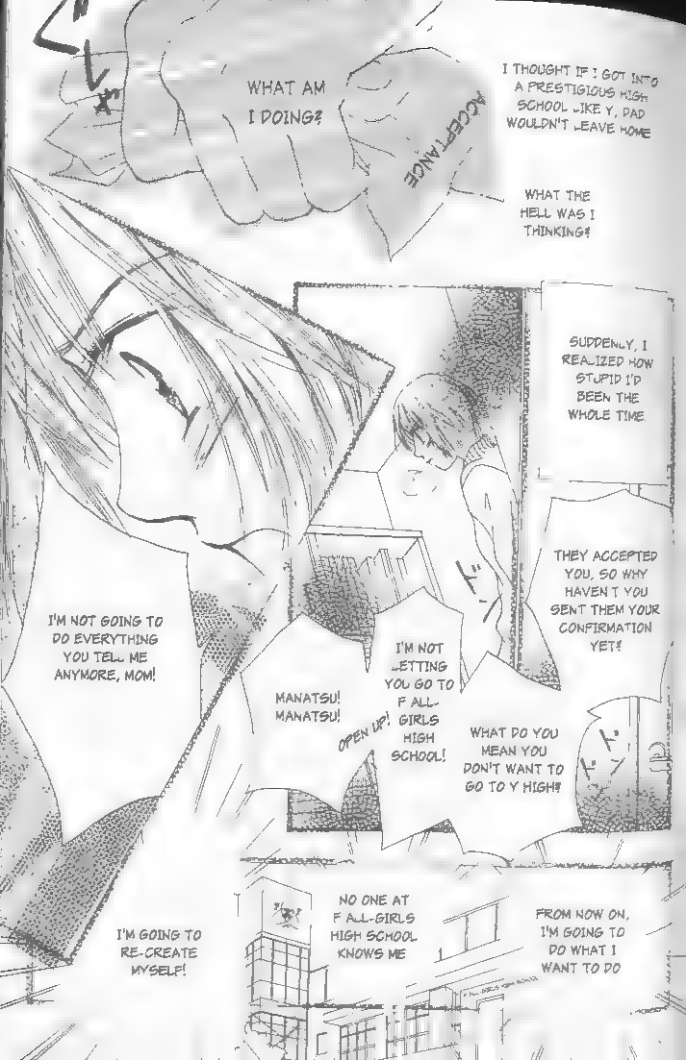
THE SENDER
.....
.....
.....
シャカ シャカ
YOU FREE TODAY? WE'RE HAVING A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR AMI!
I GUESS I'LL GO ANYWAY...
I DON'T KNOW WHO SHE IS, BUT...
5月6火
AMI'S BIRTHDAY

DON'T LOOK BACK, DARLING. IT'LL MAKE PARTING THAT MUCH HARDER. AH...
KARAOKE
BIG
HMM... NOBODY'S EVEN LISTENING.
MAYBE I CHOSE THE WRONG SONG AGAIN.
.....
AH...
Happy birthday!
Ha ha ha ha!
I'VE ALWAYS FELT LEFT OUT, EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE KID.
OH, OH, OH, DON'T DON'T DON'T GO THAT FAR, I CAN FEEL IT...
IDIOT! WHAT KIND OF SONG DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SINGING?
The song's over anyway, dear...
Little brat.
.....?

Cough.
SIGH
I COULD BUY A CAR WITH THE MONEY WE SPEND ON HER HOSPITAL BILLS!
Cough, cough, cough.
HURRY AND CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES, OKAY?
Cough, cough, cough.
FIRST A FEVER, THEN A COUGH... HER HEALTH IS GETTING WORSE AND WORSE.
THE HOSPITAL AGAIN?
LET'S PLAY!
MOM, IF I KEEP SWIMMING, WILL I GET HEALTHY AGAIN?
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND IF I KEEP STUDYING HARD, WILL DAD STOP GETTING ANGRY?
THAT'S RIGHT.
SORRY, SHE HAS ENGLISH LESSONS TODAY.
SORRY, SHE HAS SWIMMING LESSONS TODAY.
SORRY, SHE HAS PIANO LESSONS TODAY.
.....
Let's go.

HOW'S IT GOING? STUDYING HARD?
WHY DO WE HAVE TO ACTUALLY STUDY?
WE CAME OVER BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU HAD A DVD PLAYER IN YOUR ROOM!
MATH
Y-YES...
YOU'RE GOING HOME? BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MOVIES?
Bye!
Forget it now.
WAIT!
SLAM!
Can we?
SO DO WHAT MOMMY TELLS YOU, OKAY?
YOU WANT TO WATCH SOME MOVIES?
I GUESS, AS LONG AS YOU STUDY FOR TWO HOURS FIRST.


Y HIGH SCHOOL!
LOOK, I GOT INTO Y HIGH SCHOOL!
WAIT, DAD!
DIVORCE REGISTRA
I'LL LET YOU HAVE CUSTODY.
LET ME!
YOU'RE GOING TO THAT SLUT'S HOUSE, AREN'T YOU!
"BURDEN" ME WITH CUSTODY IS MORE LIKE IT
SLAM!


WHAT AM I DOING?
ACCEPTANCE
I THOUGHT IF I GOT INTO A PRESTIGIOUS HIGH SCHOOL LIKE Y, DAD WOULDN'T LEAVE HOME
WHAT THE HELL WAS I THINKING?
SUDDENLY, I REALIZED HOW STUPID I'D BEEN THE WHOLE TIME
THEY ACCEPTED YOU, SO WHY HAVEN'T YOU SENT THEM YOUR CONFIRMATION YET?
I'M NOT GOING TO DO EVERYTHING YOU TELL ME ANYMORE, MOM!
I'M NOT LETTING YOU GO TO F ALL-GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL!
MANATSU! MANATSU!
OPEN UP!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TO Y HIGH?
I'M GOING TO RE-CREATE MYSELF!
NO ONE AT F ALL-GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL KNOWS ME
FROM NOW ON, I'M GOING TO DO WHAT I WANT TO DO

I HAD A REALLY BAD COLD, SO I MISSED THE FIRST THREE DAYS OF SCHOOL. I'M ALREADY LEFT OUT
OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT
THE CLASS HAD ALREADY SPLIT INTO CLIQUES, AND I WASN'T IN ANY OF THEM.
THE NERDS, THE ANIME OTAKU, THE JOCKS, THE SHOW-OFFS..
BUT MISERY LIKES COMPANY, SO.
AND OF COURSE I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET ACCEPTED INTO ANY OF THEM.

FRIENDS OF FRIENDS OF FRIENDS COME ALONG JUST FOR THE HECK OF IT, WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING WHY.
THERE'S ALWAYS A PARTY TO CELEBRATE STUFF LIKE GETTING A BOYFRIEND OR SURVIVING FINAL EXAMS. THEY FIND ONE REASON OR ANOTHER TO GET TOGETHER HERE EVERY SINGLE DAY
MANATSU, DON'T BE SO GLOOMY! LET'S GO HAVE SOME FUN! IT'S AMI'S BIRTHDAY!
SHE GOT ALL EXCITED WHEN SHE HEARD A FRIEND OF HERS FROM JUNIOR HIGH WAS COMING
WHICH ONE'S AMI?
Ha ha ha ha!
One more time! Cheers!
You can just break up with him as soon as Christmas is over, anyway.
WHAT ABOUT THAT GUY FROM K UNIVERSITY YOU TURNED DOWN BEFORE? HE'S BETTER THAN NOBODY. JUST GO OUT WITH HIM.
YOU SERIOUSLY GOTTA GET A BOYFRIEND BEFORE CHRISTMAS!
THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING ANYWAY, BUT THEY'D HATE ME IF I ACTUALLY SAID IT.
DOESN'T MATTER, THOUGH. LOOKS LIKE I'M BEING LEFT-OUT AGAIN
YOU'D SINK THAT LOW JUST TO GET A BOYFRIEND? THAT'S NOT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A WEST BOYFRIEND

SO HE SAID, "IT'S OKAY TO HAVE SEX IF YOU'RE HAVING YOUR PERIOD. YOU WON'T GET PREGNANT."
BUT THE HOTEL BED WAS SO FILTHY AFTERWARDS!
Ha ha ha ha!
MY BOYFRIEND WOULD NEVER SAY THAT!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SOME OF THEM HAVE MET, BUT THEY SEEM TO BE HAVING SO MUCH FUN SINGING KARAOKE AND SHOWING EACH OTHER THEIR PHOTO ALBUMS.
I WONDER IF ALWAYS BE LIKE THIS, NO MATTER WHO I MEET.

CASHIER
COME ON. IT'S AMI'S BIRTHDAY!
BUT I PAID BEFORE, TOO...
I WANTED REAL FRIENDS. BUT NOTHING TURNED OUT LIKE I HAD HOPED.
AND BESIDES, IT'D BE A REAL PAIN TO GET SEPARATE CHECKS FOR EIGHT PEOPLE.
IT'D BE SO MUCH EASIER IF YOU TREATED US AND PAID IT ALL YOURSELF.
RIGHT?
HUH? I HAVE TO PAY FOR EVERYTHING?
What? She's treating us?
.....
.....
Me, too!
Me, too!
Hey, can I make a call on your cell phone?
You're so nice, Manatsu!

You see nothing but good things in my future?
Thank goodness! Thank you!
I'm so happy!
YES, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
DAD
FORTUNE-TELLING
WOW, I CAN SEE THAT YOU HAVE A LONG LIFE AHEAD OF YOU.
YOU MIGHT EVEN LIVE TO BE 116 YEARS OLD!
SEE! YOUR LIFE LINE IS NICE AND LONG.
.....

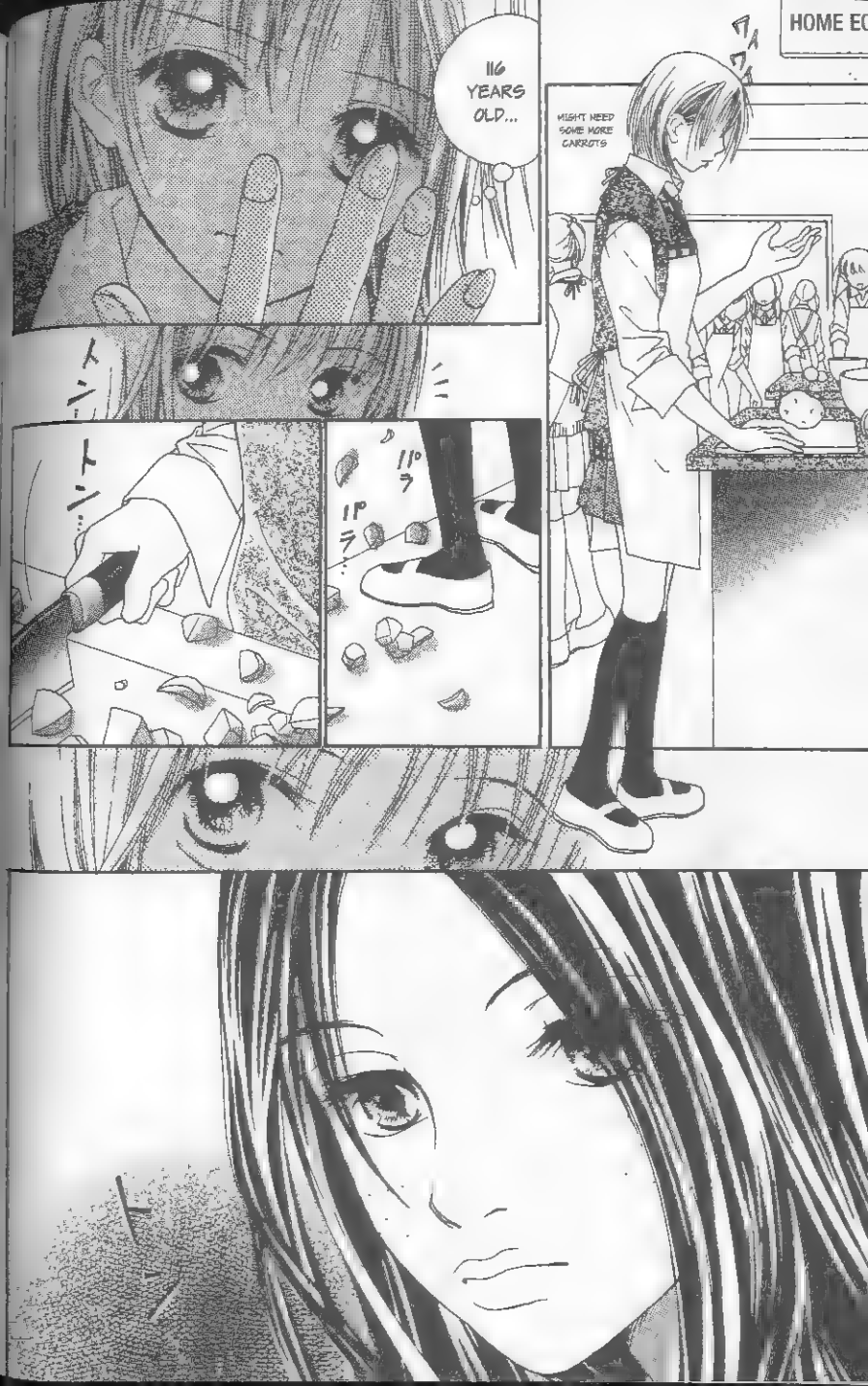
THANKS FOR TODAY! TOMORROW'S MINA'S "JUST-DUMPED-HER-BOYFRIEND" PARTY CAN YOU COME? THANKS!
AND WHEN I GET HOME, MOM WILL NAG ME UNTIL I ALMOST SUFFOCATE.
AND TAP, TAP, TAPPING AWAY TO SEND E-MAILS.
I'M PROBABLY GONNA BE SINGING AT THAT KARAOKE BAR AGAIN TOMORROW, AND AGAIN THE NEXT DAY, AND AGAIN, AND AGAIN.

WHAT IF I
KILL MYSELF!

EXPRESS TRAIN APPROACHING!
PLEASE STAND BEHIND THE WHITE LINE
I'M NOT BRAVE ENOUGH TO THROW MYSELF FROM THE PLATFORM.
BUT I COULD STAND HERE, AND SOMEONE MIGHT BUMP ME IN FRONT OF THE TRAIN...
IT'S JUST...I DON'T WANT TO KEEP ON LIVING EITHER.
IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY WANT TO KILL MYSELF.
HOOOOOOOONK!
ALL RIGHT, NOW!
I WONDER IF SOMEONE WILL REALLY PUSH ME?

W-WATCH OUT!
EXPRESS
ゴオオオオ

OOOH
WHO PUSHED ME?
THUS ANOTHER LONG, LOUSY DAY FINALLY COMES TO AN END...

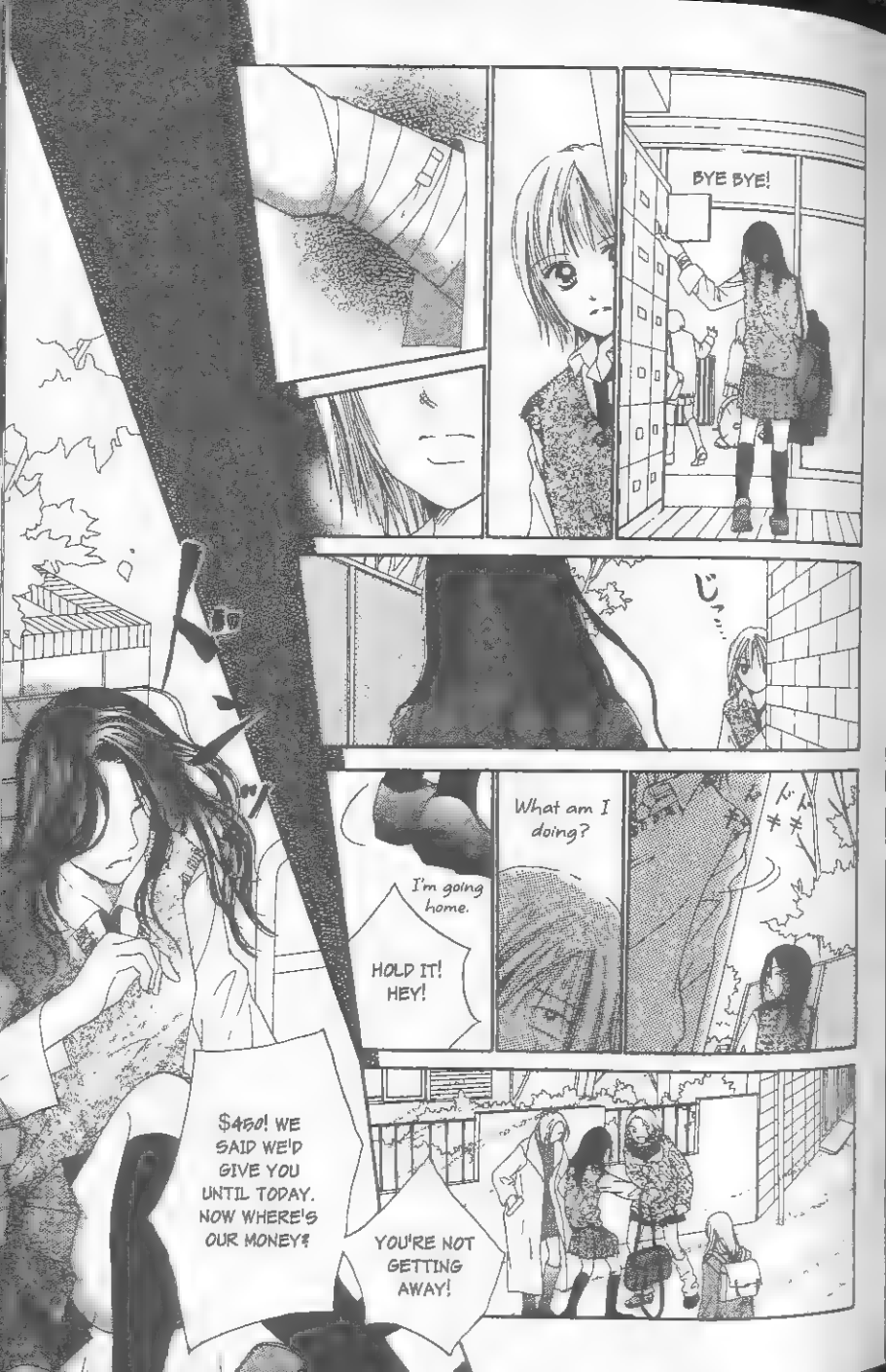

116 YEARS OLD...
トン…
トン…
パラ
パラ…
HOME EC
MIGHT NEED SOME MORE CARROTS

WHAT WAS HER NAME?
SHE'S NOT IN ANY OF THE GROUPS, EITHER.
AND SHE'S ALWAYS ABSENT.
.....
HUH?

カラン
!!
AAAAGH!
Teacher!

I guess her nana's blood
HURRY UP AND GET TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
ARE YOU OKAY? CAN YOU WALK?
.....

キーン
コーン…
カーン…
SHE...SHE CUT HER WRISTS.

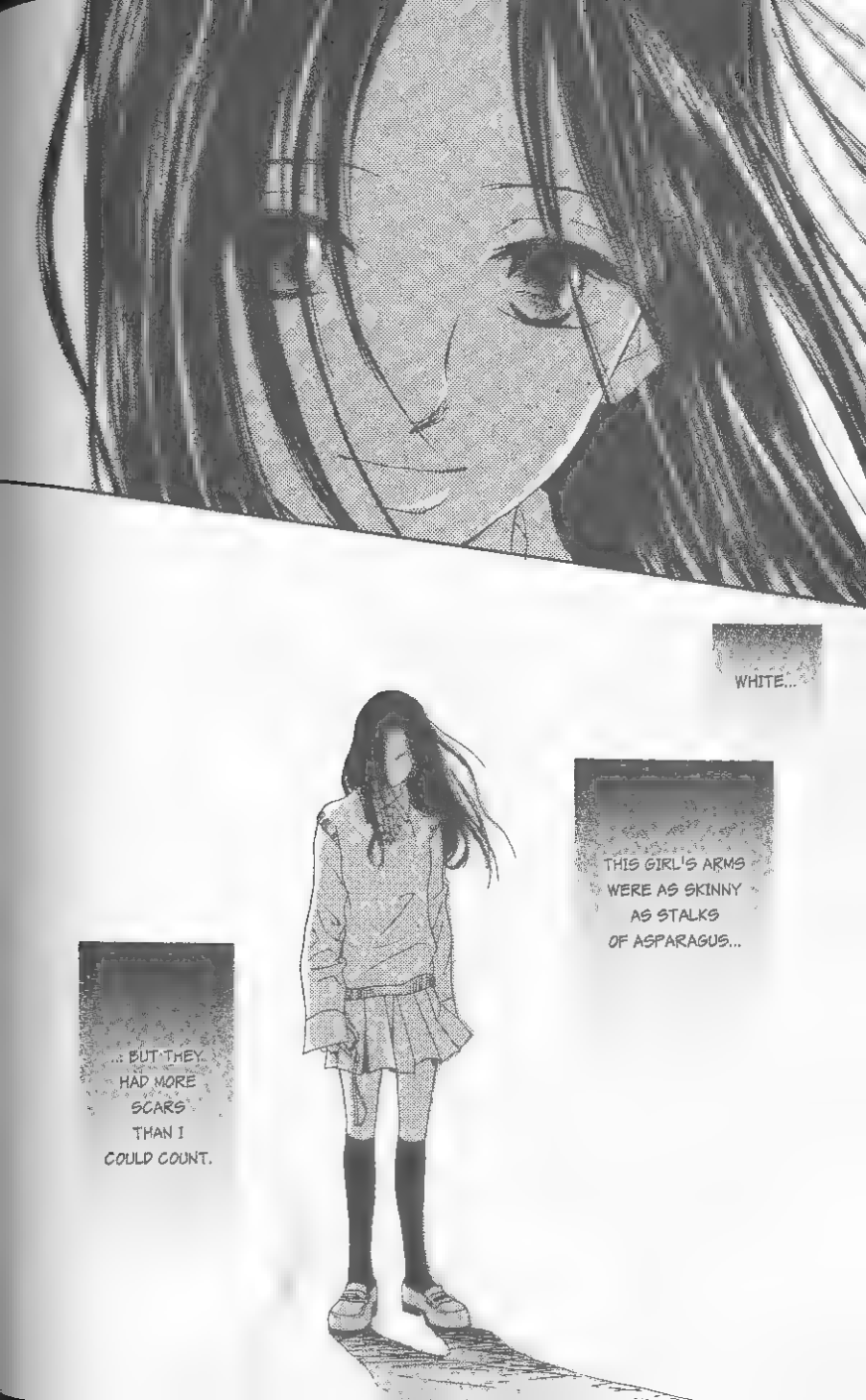

BYE BYE!
じっ…
What am I doing?
I'm going home.
HOLD IT! HEY!
$460! WE SAID WE'D GIVE YOU UNTIL TODAY. NOW WHERE'S OUR MONEY?
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY!

I'M SORRY! I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE! I'M SORRY!
!!
THEN MAKE SOME!
YOU HUNG UP ON ME YESTERDAY, BITCH!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA BLOW US OFF THAT EASY, YOU COCKROACH! COCKROACH WOMAN!
DIE!
FFFFFTTTT
COCKROACH SPRAY
Stubborn cockroach
AH AH AHA !
AAAH! IT'S STILL ALIVE!

カラ カラ
UM...
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
WHAT AM I SAYING?
EH-HEH
WERE THOSE YOUR FRIENDS?
It got soaked with bug spray.
OH, GREAT. I THINK IT'S BROKEN.
WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?
HUH? IT'S SPEED DIAL 000...
000...
ピピ
IT WORKS!

AMI: OH, THAT GIRL I MET...
Pi Pi Pi Pi
I WONDER IF THOSE GUYS DO THIS KIND OF THING TO HER ALL THE TIME.
The bug spray got all over her hair.
Great!
R R R R
SHE HUNG UP AFTER ONE RING. SHOULDN'T YOU HURRY UP AND CALL BACK?
I DON'T THINK SO...
Chuckle
IT'S A PAIN TRYING TO KEEP FRIENDS, ISN'T IT?

ドキン
ドキドキ
SHE'S INTO CUTTING...
WELL, SEE YA.
Pi Pi Pi Pi


WHITE...
THIS GIRL'S ARMS WERE AS SKINNY AS STALKS OF ASPARAGUS...
...BUT THEY HAD MORE SCARS THAN I COULD COUNT.

LEFT
9/1/1999
RIGHT KNEE
"
RIGHT ELBOW
IF I CUT MY WRISTS, I WONDER IF THE SCARS WOULD LOOK LIKE A THREAD...
.....
CUTTING
SEARCH
CLICK
CUTTING

ACCOMPANIED BY DEPRESSION

TO CUT ONE'S WRIST WITH A KNIFE, BOX CUTTER, OR RAZOR
TO REPEATEDLY INFLICT INJURIES ON ONESELF
ALSO CALLED WRIST-CUT SYNDROME.
INCIDENTS OF WRIST-CUTTING HAVE BEEN ON THE RISE,
PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUNG GIRLS.

THERE ARE ALSO MANY CASES ACCOMPANIED BY: BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER, HISTRIONIC PERSONALITY DISORDER, NARCISSISTIC PERSONALITY DISORDER, AND OTHER SUCH PERSONALITY DISORDERS. ALSO, IT'S NOT UNCOMMON TO SEE EATING DISORDERS

WHEN WE ASKED GIRLS WHY THEY DID IT, THEY RESPONDED:
"I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT WHEN I CUT MYSELF."
"I FEEL CALM WHEN I SEE MY BLOOD FLOWING OUT OF MY BODY."
"I JUST WANTED TO FEEL LIKE I WAS REALLY ALIVE."

DIARY

CUT MY WRISTS FOR THE FIRST TIME WHEN I WAS IN 6TH GRADE.
BECAUSE I HATED MYSELF
CUT MYSELF SO I COULD GET RID OF ALL THE BAD BLOOD INSIDE ME
I CUT MYSELF ONCE A WEEK
IT WAS ALMOST LIKE CLEANING MY EARS OR SOMETHING.

HUH? WHO'S THIS?

WAAHAHAHA!

WHY DOES THE BATHROOM IN OCTOPUS PARK SMELL SO BAAAAD?

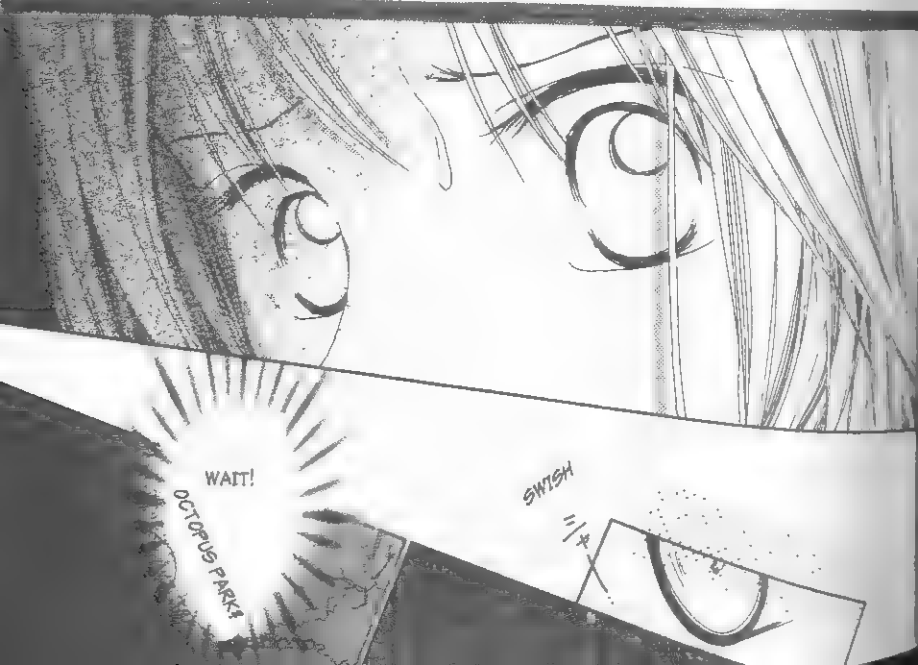
BECAUSE AS OF RIGHT NOW, I'M DEAD!

YES?

Pi
Pi
Pi
Pi

I... I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S GOING TO DIE
I SHOULDN'T GET INVOLVED WITH HER, BUT PART OF ME TELLS ME SHE'S JUST PRETENDING...
Ignore her! Ignore her!
I MEAN, YOU CAN'T REALLY DIE JUST BY CUTTING YOUR WRISTS, CAN YOU?
CLICK
HEY!
.....
THE GIRL WITH THE ASPARAGUS ARMS?
0902

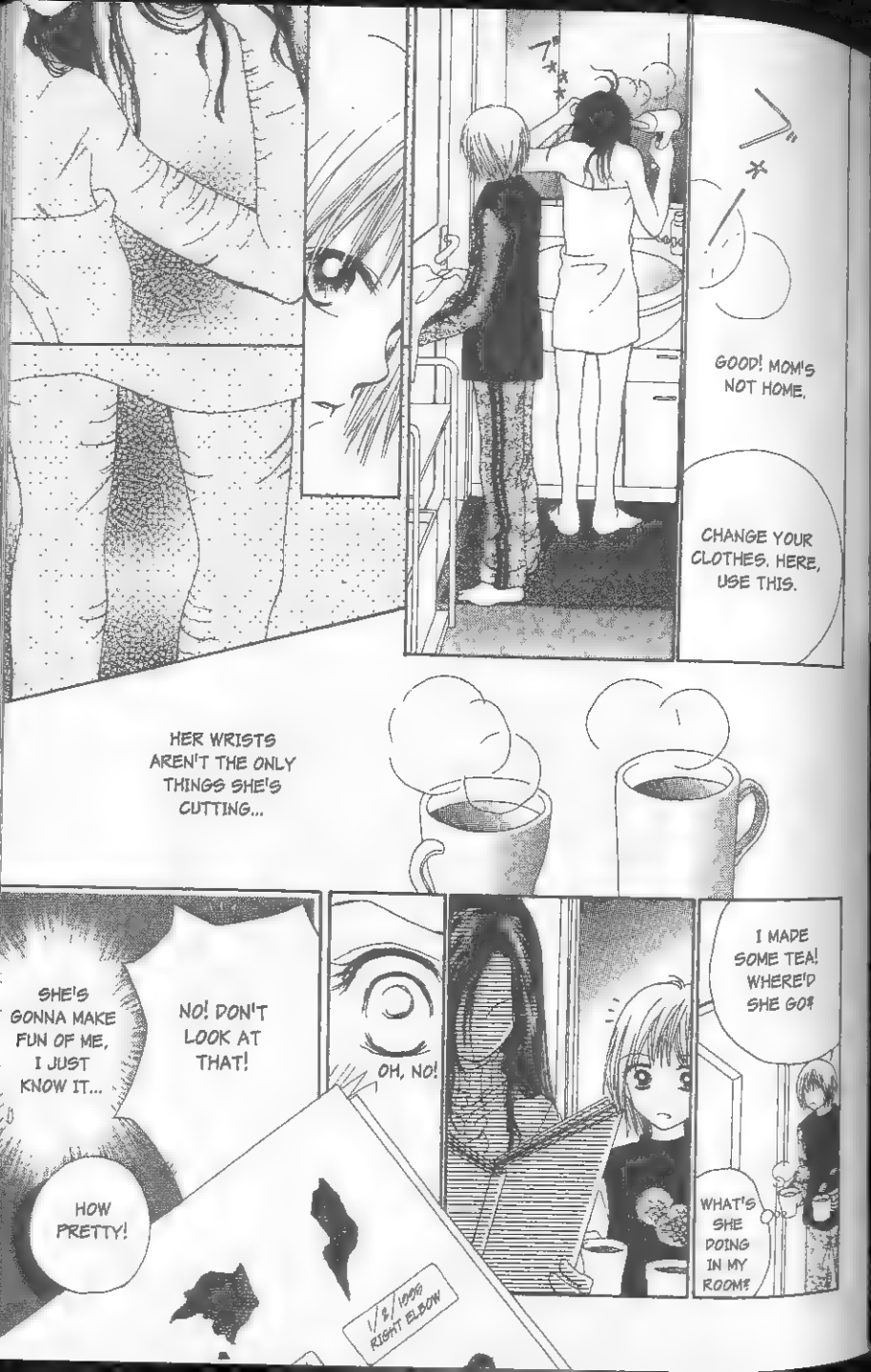
EXTREME CAUTION MUST BE TAKEN, AS THERE ARE CASES WHERE SOMEONE WHO CUTS HER WRISTS WILL ACTUALLY GO THROUGH WITH A SUICIDE.

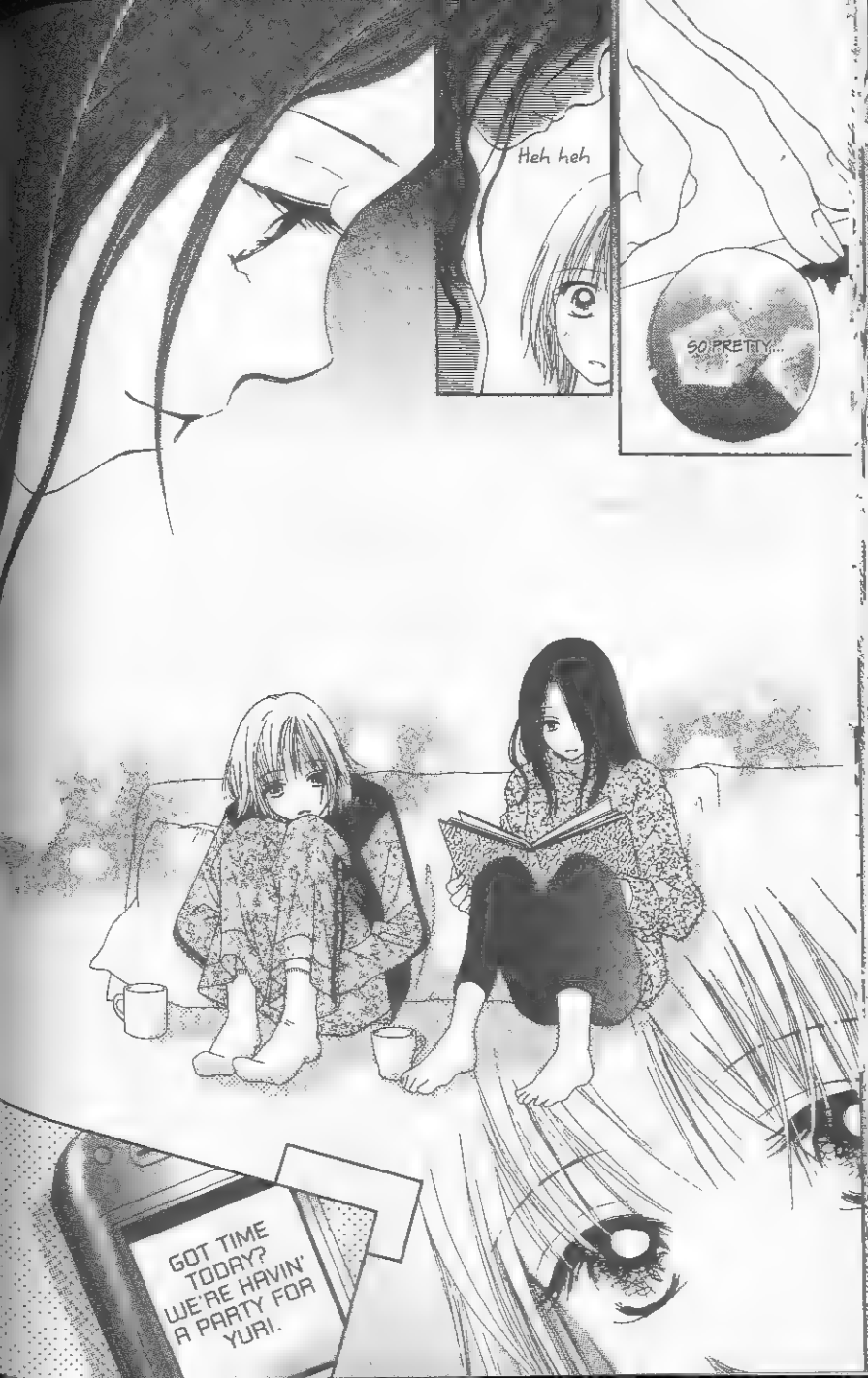


IN THERE!
BAM BAM
ASPARAGUS! ASPARAGUS!

ASPARAGUS...
HEY, ASPARAGUS ...
WHAT SHOULD I DO? CALL AN AMBULANCE?

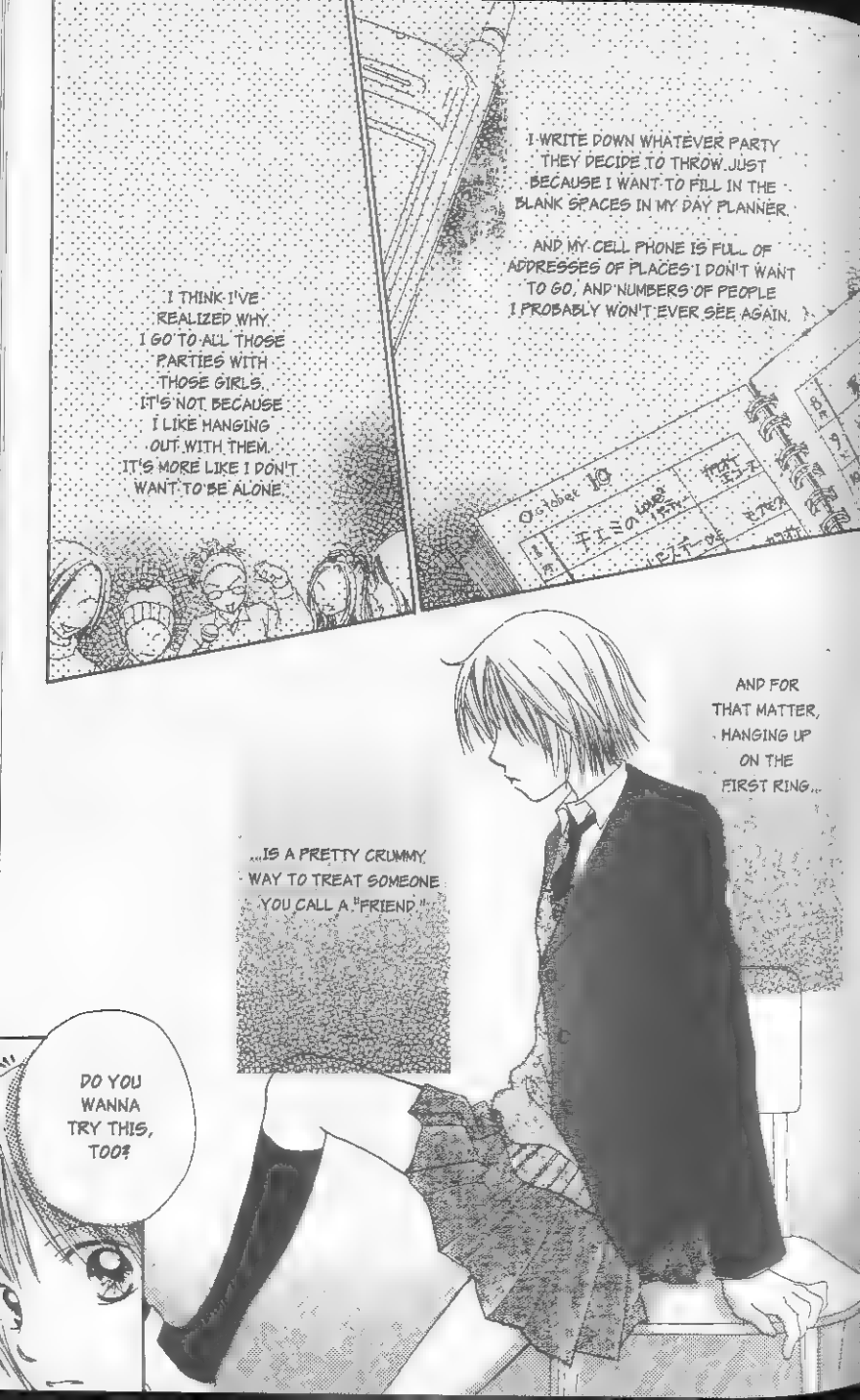
HUH?
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE?
BAM BAM BASH
I WAS DYING!
WAIT... ARE YOU DRUNK?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU CALLED ME HERE!
UNBELIEVABLE!
OW! QUIT IT!
THANK GOODNESS! SHE'S ALIVE!
LET ME DIE!
HUH? THE BLEEDING STOPPED.
THEN IT MUST BE THE RED WINE.
HEY, YOU.
UGH!
BLEEEEEGH!
Cough, cough
YAAAAAH!


GOOD! MOM'S NOT HOME.
CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES. HERE, USE THIS.
HER WRISTS AREN'T THE ONLY THINGS SHE'S CUTTING...
I MADE SOME TEA! WHERE'D SHE GO?
WHAT'S SHE DOING IN MY ROOM?
OH, NO!
NO! DON'T LOOK AT THAT!
SHE'S GONNA MAKE FUN OF ME, I JUST KNOW IT...
HOW PRETTY!
1/8/1999 RIGHT ELBOW


Heh heh
SO PRETTY...
GOT TIME TODAY? WE'RE HAVIN' A PARTY FOR YURI.

WED
8
THUR
9
FRI
10
SAT
THE SENDER
キーン
コーン
カラン
YEAH, WE'RE GOING OVER THERE NOW.
YEAH, MANATSU'S COMING TOO.
1-A
Ha ha ha

GOLDFISH FOOD
DON'T YOU WANT TO GO WITH US?
AT LEAST I THINK SO, BUT?
IF I SHOWED MY DIARY TO THOSE GIRLS, THEY'D JUST LAUGH AT ME. I KNOW IT!
Pi
Pi
P
Pi
HEY, SHE HUNG UP ON THE FIRST RING. HURRY UP AND CALL HER BACK.

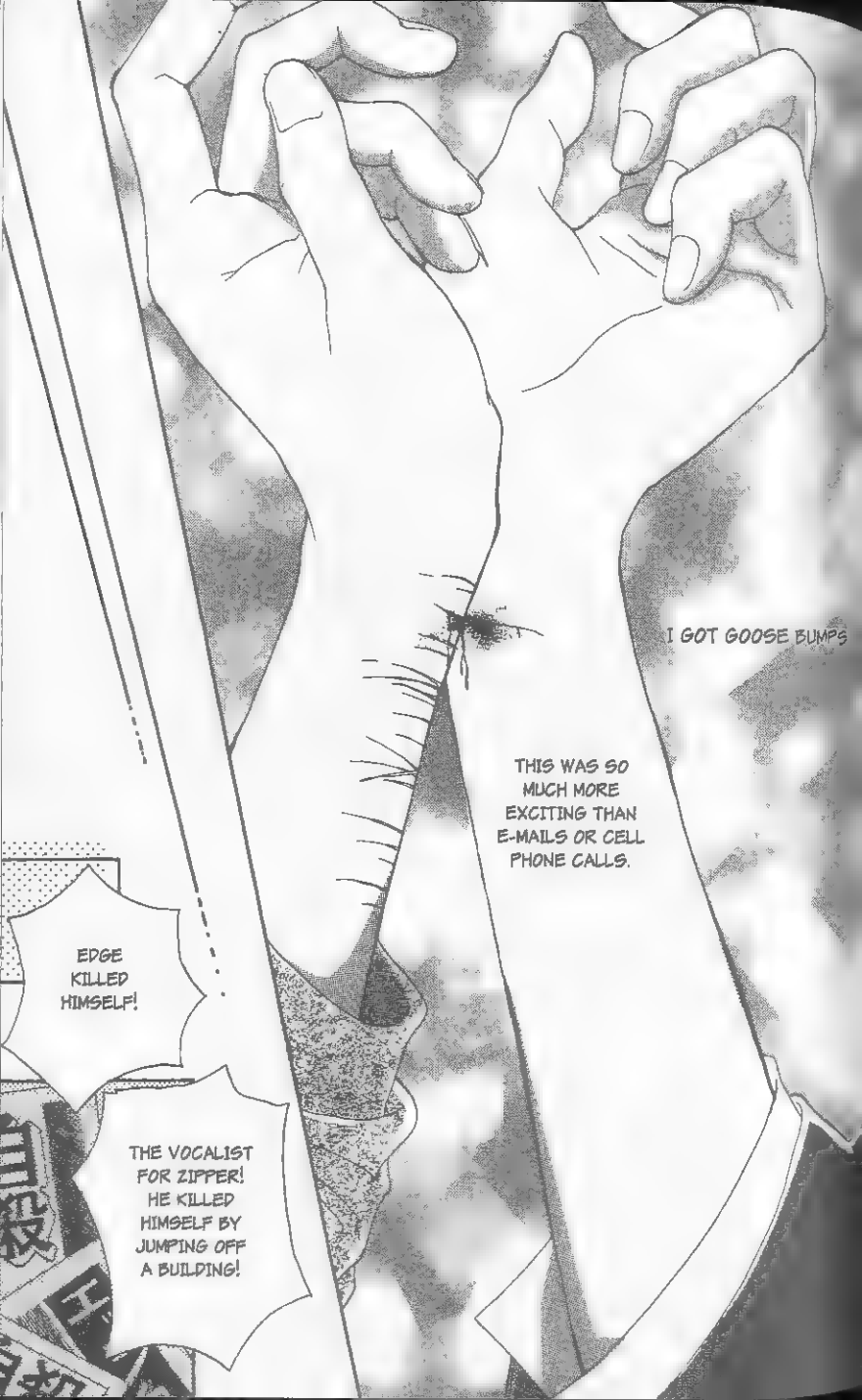

I THINK I'VE REALIZED WHY I GO TO ALL THOSE PARTIES WITH THOSE GIRLS. IT'S NOT BECAUSE I LIKE HANGING OUT WITH THEM. IT'S MORE LIKE I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE.
I WRITE DOWN WHATEVER PARTY THEY DECIDE TO THROW JUST BECAUSE I WANT TO FILL IN THE BLANK SPACES IN MY DAY PLANNER.
AND MY CELL PHONE IS FULL OF ADDRESSES OF PLACES I DON'T WANT TO GO, AND NUMBERS OF PEOPLE I PROBABLY WON'T EVER SEE AGAIN.
October 10
AND FOR THAT MATTER, HANGING UP ON THE FIRST RING...
...IS A PRETTY CRUMMY WAY TO TREAT SOMEONE YOU CALL A "FRIEND."
DO YOU WANNA TRY THIS, TOO?

ピキ
ピキ
N--
NO! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
GIVE IT A TRY. IT'LL HELP YOU RELAX.
ポチャ
IDIOT! STOP IT!
BUT IT HELPS ME BEFORE A TEST, OR WHEN...
..I'M DEPRESSED.
ギギ...
I'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR A WHILE.
BUT I HATED BEING PICKED ON ALL THE TIME.
ピキ ピキ ピキ
YOU DO STUFF LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME?

I DECIDED TO STOP DOING IT BEFORE SUMMER CAME, OR ELSE I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO WEAR SHORT SLEEVES, BUT THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN.
THEN I RAN OUT OF THINGS TO CUT. SO I STARTED CUTTING MY ARM.
FIRST I CUT FISH, THEN PARAKEETS, THEN CATS.
I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO STOP ONCE I GOT INTO HIGH SCHOOL. I THOUGHT I'D HAVE FUN THERE.
I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO GET AWAY FROM THOSE GIRLS, TOO.
BUT THOSE GIRLS STILL CAME AFTER ME, EVEN AFTER WE WENT INTO HIGH SCHOOL.
I STARTED WISHING I WOULD DIE. AND BEFORE I REALIZED IT, I CUT MYSELF ALL OVER.

D-DOESN'T IT HURT?
NOT AT ALL.
YOU'RE KIDDING ME! EVEN A LITTLE PAPER CUT HURTS.
BUT FOR SOME REASON, IT DOESN'T HURT WHEN YOU USE A CUTTER.
PAPER CUTS STING.
HUH?!
AGH! BLOOD!

...HUH?
HEY, IT DOESN'T HURT AT ALL.
IT'S OKAY.
HEY!
AGH! WAIT! WHY ARE YOU CUTTING ME?!
NO! NO! ONLY A LITTLE! ONLY .01 MILLIMETERS! DON'T CUT ME TOO MUCH! AND TELL ME WHEN YOU DO!
IT'S ALREADY DONE.
WHA...


I GOT GOOSE BUMPS
THIS WAS SO MUCH MORE EXCITING THAN E-MAILS OR CELL PHONE CALLS.
EDGE KILLED HIMSELF!
THE VOCALIST FOR ZIPPER! HE KILLED HIMSELF BY JUMPING OFF A BUILDING!

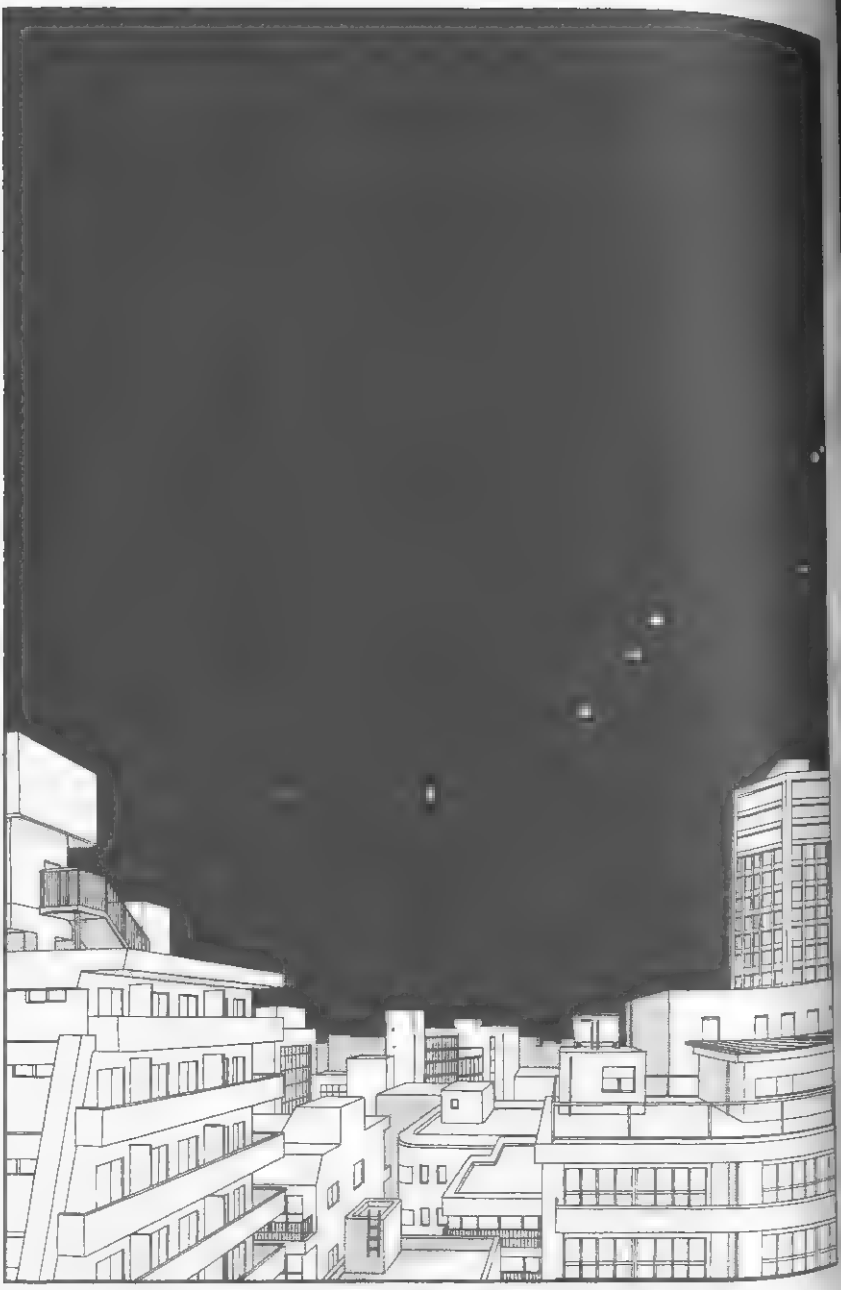
WAAAH!
WHAT A STUPID NAME!
Has more impact than "Edge," don't you think?
QUIET! I CAN'T HEAR!
WHAT— WERE YOU A FAN OF HIS, MANATSU?
I DON'T KNOW HIM.
IT'S ALL OVER THE NEWS.
NO, NOT REALLY. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE WAS REALLY POPULAR.
HE WAS A MEMBER OF A VERY POPULAR ROCK GROUP...
LAST NIGHT AT APPROXIMATELY 2:00 A.M., EDGE JUMPED OFF THE ROOF OF HIS 14TH FLOOR APARTMENT.
HE WAS 24 YEARS OLD. HIS REAL NAME WAS TOSHIO SATO.
AS YOU CAN SEE HERE, A LARGE GROUP OF FANS HAVE GATHERED IN FRONT OF HIS APARTMENT.
EDGE! EDGE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
14 FLOORS... THE SAME AS MY APARTMENT BUILDING.

NEXT UP IN THE NEWS: THIS MORNING IN SAITAMA, TWO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS LEAPT TO THEIR DEATHS FROM THE ROOF OF A BUILDING.
HOWEVER, THEY LEFT BEHIND NO NOTE INDICATING THE REASONING BEHIND THEIR ACTIONS.
THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT IT ON EVERY CHANNEL.
NOW, WE PRE-EMPT REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING TO PRESENT ZIPPER'S CONCERT AT THE TOKYO DOME...
AT LOCAL MUSIC STORES, SALES OF ZIPPER CDS HAVE SUDDENLY SHOT THROUGH THE ROOF. AND ESSAYS WRITTEN BY THE LATE ARTIST...
THEY PROBABLY HEARD ABOUT EDGE AND DECIDED TO FOLLOW HIM INTO DEATH.
5 OTHER PEOPLE DID IT, TOO.
HEY, DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS AMAZING?
IT'S PERFECT.

IN THE HEARTS OF HIS KIND, EVEN AFTER AN AMAZING DEATH IS THAT WHAT YOU MEAN?
WELL, IT'S LIKE EVEN THOUGH HE'S DEAD, HE'S STILL ALIVE IN THEM.
THIS IS SO AMAZING! AMAZING!
Huff, huff, huff!

WAAAAAAAAH!
...AAH...
Huff, huff!
DEATH...
AAAAAH!
WAAAAAH!

DEATH IS NOT THE END...IT'S THE BEGINNING.
ONE PERSON'S DEATH AFFECTS THE LIVES OF MANY OTHERS. WHEN YOU DIE, SUDDENLY EVERYONE TAKES A LOT MORE INTEREST IN YOU THAN THEY EVER DID WHEN YOU WERE ALIVE. THAT'S RIGHT. THE MOMENT YOU DIE, YOUR LIFE BECOMES ETERNAL.



EDGE FLEW THROUGH THE SKIES AND NOW HE'LL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS POPULARITY

Edge Commits suicide Star jumped from the roof of his apartment building

Mega-Popular Rock star Jumps to His Death

I DIDN'T FALL ON TO THE CONCRETE HE FELL IN TO OUR HEARTS

CD DVD

EDGE EDGE EDGE

I MEAN, PEOPLE START SLOWLY DYING FROM THE MOMENT THEY'RE BORN.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF SOMEONE'S AN IDIOT OR A GREAT PERSON. EVERYONE DIES AT SOME POINT.
I DON'T WANT TO DIE BY SOME ACCIDENT OR DISEASE.
IT WAS AMAZING BECAUSE HE CHOSE TO DIE.
EDGE'S DEATH WAS HUGE BECAUSE HE COMMITTED SUICIDE.
INCLUDING HIM, AND HIM, AND HER...
I WILL, TOO.
AND SO WILL YOU.

DON'T YOU WANT TO HAVE CONTROL OVER WHEN YOUR LIFE WILL END?
I DON'T WANT TO JUST WAIT IN FEAR, NEVER KNOWING WHEN DEATH WILL COME.
IT'S MUCH COOLER TO KNOCK ON THE DOOR THAT LEADS FROM HERE TO THE OTHER SIDE.
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S KIND OF STRANGE. YOU CAN CHOOSE WHEN TO EAT, WHEN TO SLEEP, OR WHEN TO GO TO THE BATHROOM. YET, YOU CAN'T DECIDE FOR YOURSELF WHEN YOU'RE BORN OR WHEN YOU DIE.
NO MATTER HOW BAD A PARENT MIGHT BE, THE CHILDREN ARE POWERLESS AGAINST THEM.
YOU CAN'T STAND UP TO THEM AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALIVE, MANATSU.
SO YOU THINK I FEEL THIS WAY BECAUSE OF MY PARENTS?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
"IF MY FATHER HADN'T LEFT, AND IF MY MOM WASN'T SO STRICT, MY LIFE WOULD'VE TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY."
WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY TO THE WORLD BY COMMITTING SUICIDE, MANATSU?

NO...EVEN WITHOUT A NOTE, EVERYONE WILL PROBABLY REALIZE WHY SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE.
THAT'S RIGHT. ASPARAGUS WOULD PROBABLY WRITE DOWN THOSE GIRLS' NAMES, AND EVERYTHING THEY'VE DONE TO HER.
OH...
THAT'S WHY YOU WANT TO COMMIT SUICIDE. YOU SHOULD WRITE IT ALL DOWN IN YOUR SUICIDE NOTE.
I GET EXCITED WHEN I THINK ABOUT WHAT'LL HAPPEN AFTER I DIE.
CHUCKLE!
THAT'S RIGHT! IF ASPARAGUS COMMITS SUICIDE NOW, THEN THOSE GIRLS MIGHT GET CONVICTED OF...
...MURDER!

I NEVER REALIZED HOW POWERFUL SUICIDE IS. AMAZING!
WHY DON'T YOU DO IT BY JUMPING IN FRONT OF A TRAIN, MANATSU?
HUH?
THEY'LL HAVE TO STOP THE TRAIN AND REMOVE YOUR BODY, AND YOUR MOM WILL HAVE TO PAY A FINE TO THE CITY.
CHUCKLE!
HUH? DO THEY REALLY CHARGE FINES...OR IS THAT JUST A RUMOR STARTED TO DISCOURAGE TRAIN SUICIDES?
ACTUALLY, THERE WAS A GIRL WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE ON A RAILROAD A LONG TIME AGO. SHE STOOD RIGHT IN FRONT OF AN EXPRESS TRAIN GOING 125 MILES AN HOUR.
REALLY? THAT'S AWFUL!
BUT YOUR BODY WOULD BE ALL MANGLED!
I KNOW! I'LL USE SLEEPING PILLS!
BY THE TIME ANYONE NOTICES ME AND TRIES TO WAKE ME UP,
I'LL ALREADY BE DEAD!
That's cool!
YOU'D HAVE TO TAKE OVER 200 PILLS, THOUGH. ENOUGH TO FILL BOTH HANDS!
I WANT TO FREEZE TO DEATH ON A SNOWY MOUNTAIN.
YOU CAN CLIMB A MOUNTAIN, MANATSU?
Um...
WOW...
IT'S TRUE! IT'S USED TO COVER THE COSTS OF LAWSUITS AND DERAILMENTS FROM SUICIDES. AND THEY'RE PRETTY STUBBORN ABOUT GETTING IT PAID, TOO.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO JUMP, YOU HAVE TO DO IT FROM A PLACE OVER 60 FEET HIGH, OR YOU MIGHT NOT DIE. YOU HAVE TO JUMP FROM AT LEAST SEVEN OR EIGHT STORIES UP.
HMM. YEAH. THAT'D BE TOUGH TO SWALLOW
THIS MUCH?
.....
IF YOU JUMP FROM OVER SIXTEEN STORIES HIGH, YOU'LL FEEL LIKE YOU'RE FLOATING DOWN SLOWLY... AND IT'LL FEEL GREAT!
AND IT'S BEST IF THERE'S CONCRETE BELOW YOU.
I SEE...
YEAH, PROBABLY BECAUSE HE JUMPED FEET FIRST.
HEY, EDGE'S BODY LOOKED LIKE IT DIDN'T HAVE A SCRATCH OR BRUISE ON IT AT ALL. I WONDER WHY?
YOU'D THINK THERE WOULD BE SOME...
IN THAT MOMENT, HE PROBABLY GAVE BIRTH TO THE GREATEST SONG IN HISTORY...
SURROUNDED BY THE GENTLE SUNLIGHT, LIKE A DREAM...
HE PROBABLY WASN'T SCARED, AND HE PROBABLY DIDN'T FEEL ANY PAIN EITHER.

I WONDER IF I SHOULD JUMP.
YOU DIE YOUNG AND LEAVE A BEAUTIFUL CORPSE.
THERE'S NO FEAR AND NO PAIN.
IT'S SIMPLE.
chuckle
I THINK CUTTING YOUR WRISTS WOULD BE BETTER.
HUH?
CUT YOUR ARTERY.
CUT RIGHT HERE, LIKE YOU WERE HOLLOWING IT OUT.
DO IT IN ONE QUICK STROKE. DON'T HESITATE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE SLEEPING PILLS.
YOU'LL LOSE SO MUCH BLOOD, YOU'LL GET ANEMIC, AND START TO LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS...
...AND YOUR TEMPERATURE WILL SLOWLY START TO DROP...
DYING WILL BE JUST LIKE SLOWLY FALLING ASLEEP.
IF YOU'RE 110 POUNDS, YOU SHOULD LET AT LEAST ONE LITER OF BLOOD DRAIN FROM YOUR BODY.
PUT YOUR HAND IN A SINK OR A BATHTUB, SO THE WOUND WON'T CLOSE UP.
IT'S TRUE.
JUST LIKE SLOWLY, SLOWLY...
... FALLING ASLEEP

YEAH, ME TOO! THAT'D BE GREAT.
AND I'D RATHER HAVE FLOWERS THAN INCENSE.
I'D RATHER HAVE THEM SING HYMNS THAN CHANT.
FOR MY FUNERAL,
AND...
...IN THE PORTRAIT NEXT TO MY CASKET, I WANT TO HAVE A LITTLE SMILE ON MY FACE.
OH, NO! I DON'T HAVE ANY DECENT PICTURES!
.....
UH-OH.
I DON'T WANT SOME STRANGE PHOTOGRAPHER GUY JUST TAKING IT HOWEVER HE WANTS.
ME NEITHER...

OH, THESE TURNED OUT GREAT!
PHOTOS
YOUR EYES SHOW EVERY EMOTION, ASPARAGUS!
I GUESS I'LL USE THIS ONE.
Heh heh!
GASP!
OH, NO!
IT'S THEM!

HURRY UP!
START MASTURBATING!
YOU! GET IN HERE!
PLEASE!
NO! LEAVE HER OUT OF THIS!
YOU HAND OVER SOME MONEY, TOO, BITCH!
YOU DIDN'T COME UP WITH THE MONEY IN TIME, SO WE'RE COLLECTING INTEREST!
DO IT! AND FACE THE CAMERA!
PHOTOS
ASPARAGUS.
IF YOU DON'T PLAY WITH YOURSELF, I'LL SPRAY THIS IN YOUR FRIEND'S MOUTH!
PHOTOS
...
Ha ha ha!
Ha ha ha! This is great!!
AAAAAAAAH!
OPEN YOUR LEGS WIDER!
WIDER!

HEY—AREN'T YOU GOING TO THANK ME?
HERE'S SOME MONEY TO GET HOME.
500
チャリン
IF YOU WANT THESE PICTURES OF YOU MASTURBATING BACK, YOU'LL HAVE TO HAND OVER $450.
Ha ha!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
See ya!
Ha ha!
I WISH...
ASPARAGUS!
I'LL WALK HOME.

There are some people who say no matter how hard things are at the moment, time will pass and everything will work out just fine. There's no need to stress out.

But how does do we make it happen?

They tell us, "When you're sad and hurt, just remember the good times you've had." But what about the people who have never had any good times in their lives?

For people who have had nothing but problems, dying is much easier than living.

Yeah, I want to be set free from this pain.

Isn't death the only thing that can save her?

I walk and walk, but all I can see is darkness.

Hey, is anyone there? Get me out of the long tunnel of pain!

Here's what Aparasos said...

"I wish I'd just hurry up and die."

I'M HOME!
OH, NO!

THROW IT ALL OUT!
AUGH...
AUGH...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THIS IS CREEPY! WHAT KIND OF CHILD WOULD COLLECT HER OWN SCABS?
HONESTLY!
NO! NO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'VE BEEN COLLECTING THEM FOR SIX YEARS!
11/11/2000 RIGHT ELBOW
2000 RIGHT
HOW CRUEL, MOM!
WHEN YOU SAID, "FROM NOW ON I'M GOING TO DO WHAT I WANT TO DO," DID YOU MEAN YOU'RE JUST GONNA FOOL AROUND AS MUCH AS YOU WANT?
FINALS ARE COMING UP, YOU KNOW!
AND WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN SO LATE AT NIGHT?
ARE YOU GOING TO COMMIT SUICIDE?
IF YOU LIKE PLAYING AROUND EVERY DAY, ARE YOU GOING TO QUIT SCHOOL?
.....
IF YOU HATE YOUR MOTHER THAT MUCH, ARE YOU JUST GOING TO RUN AWAY?

PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY, "I WANT TO DIE, I WANT TO DIE," BUT THEY NEVER DO IT.
...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I'VE BEEN LETTING YOU DO WHAT YOU WANT, BUT IF YOU WERE BY YOURSELF, YOU'D BE HELPLESS.
SO I'M GOING TO...
I CAN'T TAKE THIS.
I'M GOING TO DIE.
I'M GOING TO COMMIT SUICIDE.
BECAUSE THEY CAN'T.
I'M GOING TO DO IT...
SO WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN COMMIT SUICIDE?
YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING!
DAMMIT. I'LL SHOW YOU!
WAAAAAAAH!

I'M GOING TO KILL MYSELF!

MY MOM'S GOING TO HAVE TO LIVE THE REST OF HER LIFE KNOWING THAT HER DAUGHTER COMMITTED SUICIDE BECAUSE OF HER.
S-STOP IT, MANATSU!
MANATSU!
AAAAAH!
SERVES HER RIGHT!
WH...AT?

IT'S KIND OF LIKE FRIED CHICKEN FROM KFC... LIKE RAW CORN...
IS THAT FAT I SEE IN THE WOUND? MY WHITE FLESH HAS SHOWN ITSELF!
WOW, IT'S COMING OUT FAST.
MY BLOOD IS POURING OUT.
IT COMES OUT FASTER WHEN MY HEART BEATS.
THUMP-THUMP THUMP-THUMP
AH...MY BLOOD IS WARM.
AND IT SMELLS.
IT SMELLS LIKE NEW COINS.
AMAZING.
THIS IS REALLY AMAZING!
AMAZING, AMAZING!

THAT'S ALL I REALLY REMEMBER.
"HELLO? NEED AN AMBULANCE!"

"WARNING SIGNS THAT SHE WAS THINKING OF SUICIDE?"
YES.
PEOPLE WHO ATTEMPT SUICIDE KNOW THAT THEY SHOULDN'T, BUT THEY ARE COMPELLED TO ANYWAY.
THEY USUALLY DISPLAY SOME WARNING SIGNS BEFORE THEY ACTUALLY ATTEMPT SUICIDE.
THEY MIGHT SAY THINGS LIKE, "NO ONE ACCEPTS ME" OR, "PEOPLE TREAT ME LIKE A BURDEN." THEY FEEL LONELY.
THEY FEEL TRAPPED, BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING. THEY THINK THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
THEY FEEL DEPRESSED BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. THOSE KINDS OF NEGATIVE EMOTIONS ARE WHAT DRIVE THEM TO THE EDGE.
THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE'S CUT HER OWN WRISTS.
HOW... HORRIBLE!
SHE'S LUCKY SHE DIDN'T DIE.
IN THIS CASE, ONLY THE VEIN WAS SEVERED, BUT...
...THERE COULD BE SOME SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS IF THIS BECOMES A HABIT. IF SHE CONTINUES TO SELF-MUTILATE AND LOSE TOO MUCH BLOOD,
SHE'LL BECOME ANEMIC AND HER HEART WILL WEAKEN.

.....
IT'S NOT HER BODY THAT NEEDS TREATMENT THE MOST. IT'S HER MIND.
I RECOMMEND THAT SHE SEE A PSYCHIATRIST.
THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENT REASONS FOR ATTEMPTING SUICIDE: BEING TEASED, TROUBLE AT HOME, OR THINGS OF THAT NATURE.
IN ANY CASE, A YOUNG GIRL ATTEMPTING SUICIDE IS A CRY FOR HELP IT'S AN SOS.
CONTINUES TO SELF-MUTILATE.
OH, NO
YEAH, I'M STILL IN THE HOSPITAL.
I'M KIND OF NUMB. I CAN'T MOVE MY FINGER.
!

BUT WHEN I WENT TO GET MY EARS PIERCED, I GOT SO SCARED I COULDN'T EVEN GO THROUGH WITH IT! BUT I REALLY DID IT THIS TIME!
COOL! YOU DID GOOD, MANATSU.
AND IT DIDN'T HURT AT ALL.
IT WAS NOTHING LIKE GIVING BLOOD. IT WAS LIKE ALL THE BLOOD IN MY BODY RUSHED RIGHT ONTO THE FLOOR AND POURED OUT ALL AT ONCE.
THE MOMENT I DECIDED TO KILL MYSELF, ALL MY TROUBLES DISSOLVED INTO THIN AIR.
WHEN THEY SAY "SAFETY RAZOR," THEY REALLY MEAN "SAFETY RAZOR!"
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAD THE COURAGE TO CUT MY WRIST AND STILL DIDN'T DIE.
WAIT! THE SUICIDE NOTE!
HA HA!
YOU'RE GETTING TOO WOUND UP, MANATSU. CALM DOWN.
OH YEAH...
I FORGOT ABOUT THE SUICIDE NOTE! THAT WAS CLOSE!

Ha ha!
THEY SAY WANTING TO COMMIT SUICIDE IS CONTAGIOUS. IT'S TRUE.
Chuckle!
I FEEL LIKE IF I WAS LEFT ALONE JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER, I WOULD'VE SEEN FIELDS OF FLOWERS.
ARE YOU LISTENING, MANATSU?
HMM?
AAH, IT FELT SO GOOD! I'D BE SOOO HAPPY IF I COULD DIE LIKE THAT.
Sigh!
DON'T DO IT ALONE, OKAY?
OKAY.
WHEN YOU DIE, I'LL DO IT WITH YOU.
ASPARAGUS

Library
A CUT LIKE THIS WON'T KILL YOU. IT'S TOO FAR AWAY FROM THE ARTERY.
YOU HAVE TO SLICE RIGHT THROUGH HERE.
I'LL SHOW YOU THE RIGHT WAY TO USE A "SAFETY RAZOR."
ALL RIGHT? WATCH THIS.
Ah!
SNAP
YOU CAN CUT BETTER WITH THIS SIDE.
WOW... YOU'RE RIGHT!

I HEARD ABOUT THIS CASE WHERE SOMEONE WHO WANTED TO COMMIT SUICIDE BOUGHT POISON OVER THE INTERNET, AND WHEN HE DRANK IT, HE REALLY DIED.
YOU CAN STILL GET THAT SAME POISON.
POISON.
I KNOW...
...A WAY TO DIE...
...THAT'S EVEN SIMPLER, BETTER, AND QUICKER.
HUH? WHAT? KICKER?
BUT NEVER MIND THAT, MANATSU.
WOW..
UM-HM.
LOOK HERE. CYANIDE.

ADULT TOYS
VIDEO IMAGE CLUB QUEEN MERRY
S&M SHOW
WHAT ARE WE DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
THIS WAY, MANATSU.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
OF COURSE IT IS.
WHY DO YOU THINK THEY CALL IT CYANIDE? RHYMES WITH SUICIDE.
BUT ISN'T $500 FOR TWO CAPSULES FINANCIAL SUICIDE?
WELL, WE HAVE TO EARN $800, RIGHT?
SEX SERVICES
WHAAAAAAAAT?

WOULD YOU RATHER WORK AT MCDONALD'S OR A CONVENIENCE STORE?
BUT I NEVER WANTED A PART-TIME JOB LIKE THIS!
IT'D TAKE FOREVER TO MAKE $600 THAT WAY!
BUT A SEX SHOP?
LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP.
MANATSU! PLEASE?
MANATSU, WHERE ARE YOU? HURRY UP AND COME HOME!
Ha ha!
It's all yours, ladies!
Manager
Front Desk

がしっ
I HATE THIS!
MANATSU! WE HAVE A CUSTOMER!
OH! WELCOME!
WELL...SINCE I DON'T HAVE A FUTURE, I WON'T HAVE TIME FOR REGRETS.
ASPARAGUS...
LOOK, WE'RE GONNA DIE SOON, RIGHT? THERE'S NO REASON TO SWEAT OVER THE DETAILS.
I GUESS I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT, BUT...
But..
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THESE PICTURES AND CHOOSE WHICH GIRL YOU LIKE, SIR.
HEY! YOU LOOK JUST LIKE A MOVIE STAR!
THIS PLACE HAS SOME REALLY CUTE GIRLS!
THE THINGS WE'LL DO FOR CYANIDE...

RINGO
ICHIGO
KU
PLUM
KARIN
AH, ICHIGO LOOKS NICE!
OH, I'M SO SORRY, BUT SHE'S TAKEN AT THE MOMENT.
AAAH, BUT I DON'T WANT ANY OF THE OTHER GIRLS!
IF I CAN'T HAVE ICHIGO, THEN I'M GOING HOME.
WHA...
WELCOME!
HOW ABOUT A DATE?
EH HEH..
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
OH! NICE! NICE!
MANATSU, JUST TALK TO HIM!
HUH? TALK? THAT'S IT?
STALL HIM, ALL RIGHT?
IF HE SAYS HE WANTS A DATE, SAY OKAY.
YOU CAN HAVE THAT ROOM RIGHT OVER THERE.
WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO WAIT FOR HALF AN HOUR OR SO, SIR?
AH!
HEY, YOU LOOK PRETTY NICE, TOO!
ARE YOU SURPRISED?
WE'RE RECEPTIONISTS RIGHT? WE HAVE TO DO OUR JOB.

カシャ
RS★K
カシャ
カシャ
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!
MANATSU'S POSES
THANK YOU! I'LL PUT THESE PICTURES UP FOR ABOUT A MONTH. WOULD $250 BE OKAY?
I'LL GIVE YOU EVEN MORE IF YOU LET ME PUT THEM OUT IN THE DISPLAY RIGHT OUTSIDE.
WE DID IT, ASPARAGUS!
$800!
EVEN IF ALL WE DID WAS THE RECEPTIONIST WORK, WE STILL WOULD'VE MADE $68 IN JUST TWO HOURS.

hiccup
STAGGER
.....
IT'S FUNNY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S SO SIMPLE TO MAKE SO MUCH MONEY WITHOUT HAVING SEX!
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE JOBS LIKE THA~
I MUST ADMIT I REALLY GOT INTO IT AT THE END!
I COULD EVEN BE ONE OF THOSE GIRLS WHO LURE GUYS IN!
I FEEL LIKE SUCH A FRAUD. IT'S FUNNY HOW ONE PERSON CAN PLAY SO MANY DIFFERENT ROLES
WELL, A COUPLE OF THE CUSTOMERS CAUGHT ON, BUT STILL...
WE'D JUST SAY, "HEY, HONEY, CHECK ME OUT!" AND ALL THEIR DOUBTS WOULD GO OUT THE WINDOW
HA HA HA HA!
EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT COULD YOU LEND US A LITTLE MONEY? I DROPPED MY WALLET.
NOW WE CAN'T GET HOME!
EH? SO YOU THINK I LOOK LIKE A NICE OLD MAN, EH? HA HA HA! WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE EVER PAID FOR SEX OR ANYTHING..
1000
1000
千円
HERE YOU GO.
CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME!
.....

I'LL GIVE YOU $80 FOR YOUR PEE.
SO ONE OUT OF FIVE OLD MEN REALLY WILL GIVE YOU MONEY IF YOU JUST ASK! IT'S TRUE! HA HA!
EXCUSE ME, GIRLS...
Huff, huff!
DANG! WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT? NO MATTER WHERE WE GO IT'S SO EASY TO MAKE MONEY!
I DON'T THINK HE'S FOLLOWING US ANYMORE
I WONDER WHAT HE DOES WITH THE PEE?
.....
WHICH IS MORE MEANINGLESS? WORKING PART-TIME SO THOSE GIRLS COULD TAKE MY MONEY, OR BEING LEERED AT BY GUYS LIKE THAT?
WHY DOES EVERYONE KEEP ON LIVING IN IT?
THIS WHOLE WORLD IS DISGUSTING.
SICK!
.....

FROM THE DAY MEN AND WOMEN LEARN ABOUT SEX, THEY BECOME ANIMALS.
PEOPLE STILL HAVE SEX AT THAT AGE, HUH?
SHE'S ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS MOM.
AM I GOING TO STOP BEING A WOMAN WHEN I'M 25, OR EVEN WHILE I'M STILL IN MY TEENS? I'LL FALL IN LOVE OR SOMETHING AND GET MARRIED. THEN MY HUSBAND WILL CHEAT ON ME. IT'S A JOKE (JUST LIKE AT HOME)!
IT'S LIKE THE LONGER YOU LIVE, THE EMPTIER LIFE BECOMES.
IT'S AN ACCIDENT.
CHATTER, CHATTER, CHATTER!
A PEDESTRIAN GOT HIT, TOO.
IT'S ALMOST A MIRACLE THAT WE'RE EVEN STILL ALIVE.
PEOPLE DIE BY CHANCE ALL THE TIME.
IT'D BE SO BORING TO DIE IN AN ACCIDENT LIKE THAT.
YOU COULD JUST BE WALKING ALONG, AND THEN SUDDENLY GET HIT FROM BEHIND AND DIE.

MANATSU, WE HAVE TO DIE SOON.
BEFORE WE BECOME CRAPPY ADULTS...
BEFORE WE DIE IN SOME MEANINGLESS WAY...
WE'RE GOING TO DECIDE THAT FOR OURSELVES.
THE WAY WE'LL DIE...
THE PLACE WE'LL DIE...
THE DAY WE'LL DIE...
THAT'S RIGHT.
YEAH...

I TRANSFERRED $600.
ATM
BANK
WE HAVE TO HURRY...
TO
BA
THAT'S RIGHT...WE WANT TO MAKE OUR DECISION BEFORE THE NEW YEAR.
PUTTING YOUR PERSONAL AFFAIRS IN ORDER, HUH?
AFTER I WRITE MY SUICIDE NOTE TONIGHT, I WON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE LEFT TO DO.
MY PICTURE IS ALL READY TO GO...
.....
GRUMBLE!
HEY, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THE LEFTOVER MONEY?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I WONDER IF IT WILL REALLY COME IN ONE WEEK?
OOH, I'VE SEEN THOSE BEFORE. AFTER YOU GET THE WHOLE SHEET STAMPED, YOU GET $8. YOU'RE THROWING IT AWAY?
OR THIS EITHER!
New Year Bargains Jan. 3, 4 & 5
BUT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO USE IT ANYMORE..

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO HAVE SUSHI AT THE COUNTER!
TUNA! TUNA! SEA URCHIN! TUNA!
WE CAN STUFF OURSELVES WITH WHATEVER WE WANT BEFORE WE DIE! IT DOESN'T MATTER IF WE GET FAT!
I FEEL LIKE A CONVICT WHO'S BEEN ASKED WHAT SHE WANTS FOR HER LAST MEAL!
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD SAY, "WHITE RICE AND BEANS" OR "RAMEN."
ISN'T THAT BORING?
I WONDER WHY IN THE MOVIES, PEOPLE WHO WANT TO COMMIT SUICIDE HEAD NORTH?
HEY ASPARAGUS, WHERE ARE WE GOING?
IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A COUNTRY SONG.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT, I'VE NEVER BEEN TO TOKYO TOWER!
Map
TOKYO
LET'S BE HAPPY FOR NOW!
But there are plenty of empty seats.
HAVE A SEAT!

HA HA HA HA HA!
HUH? WERE THE CITY AND THE PEOPLE AND THE SKY ALWAYS THIS COLORFUL?
HOW BEAUTIFUL!
AH, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I'VE REALLY LAUGHED—GENUINE BELLY LAUGHS!
WHY DO I FEEL SO FREE?
I ALMOST FEEL LIKE FORGIVING MOM
Sign here, please
207
Thank you

HOME DELIVERY SERVICE
Address: Tokyo
Mrs.Manatsu
36-04
ASPARAGUS!
I JUST TRANSFERRED THE MONEY YESTERDAY!
THAT WAS FAST!
THEY'VE GOT THIS PACKED REALLY TIGHTLY!
YOU COULD LOOK A LITTLE MORE ENTHUSED, YOU KNOW.

Thank you!
I THINK I'M GOING TO MIX MINE IN SOME PUDDING. ARE YOU GOING TO USE JUICE?
HEY...
I DON'T CARE. I WANT TO DIE NOW ANYWAY.
AAAAH!
WAIT! WAIT! WAIT! WOULDN'T IT BE MORE PEACEFUL TO DIE ON THE ROOFTOP?
THIS IS IT? NO INSTRUCTION BOOKLET OR ANYTHING?
AAAH! DON'T TAKE THEM OUT OF THE WRAPPER! JUST TOUCHING THEM WILL GET THE CYANIDE INTO YOUR BODY!
AND WE HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN THE WATER READY YET.
RIGHT?

ARE YOU SURE WE WON'T NATURALLY THROW IT UP BEFORE IT WORKS? AND ARE YOU SURE IT WON'T HURT?
IT'LL KILL YOU IN AN INSTANT.
AND YOUR BODY WILL SMELL LIKE ALMONDS.
BESIDES, EVEN JUST A LITTLE BIT IS ENOUGH TO KILL AN ADULT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE HAVE SO MUCH, IT CAN'T FAIL.
I'LL MIX IT IN THE JUICE.
AAAAUGH!
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?
UMM, WELL, UMM... YOU SEE, UM...
WOULD YOU STOP BEING SO AFRAID TO DIE, MANATSU?
THAT'S NOT IT...
I JUST WONDER IF THIS IS THE REAL DEAL OR NOT.
I MEAN, WE'VE TOLD OURSELVES WE'RE GOING TO DIE. IT'D BE PRETTY ANTI-CLIMACTIC IF THESE PILLS TURNED OUT TO BE FAKE.

MAYBE WE SHOULD TEST THEM ON A MOUSE
OR TAKE THEM TO A PHARMACIST TO GET THEM CHECKED OUT!
BUT --DUH!--IF WE DID THAT HE'D PROBABLY CALL THE COPS.
EH.. HEH..
WHAT AM I THINKING?
ASPARAGUS?
HUH?

WE SHOULD TEST IT ON A PERSON.
SHHH!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
IF IT'S THE REAL THING, THEN WE'LL DRINK THE REST.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF WE KILL SOMEONE. WE'RE GOING TO DIE ANYWAY.
OH, NO...
SEE YA!

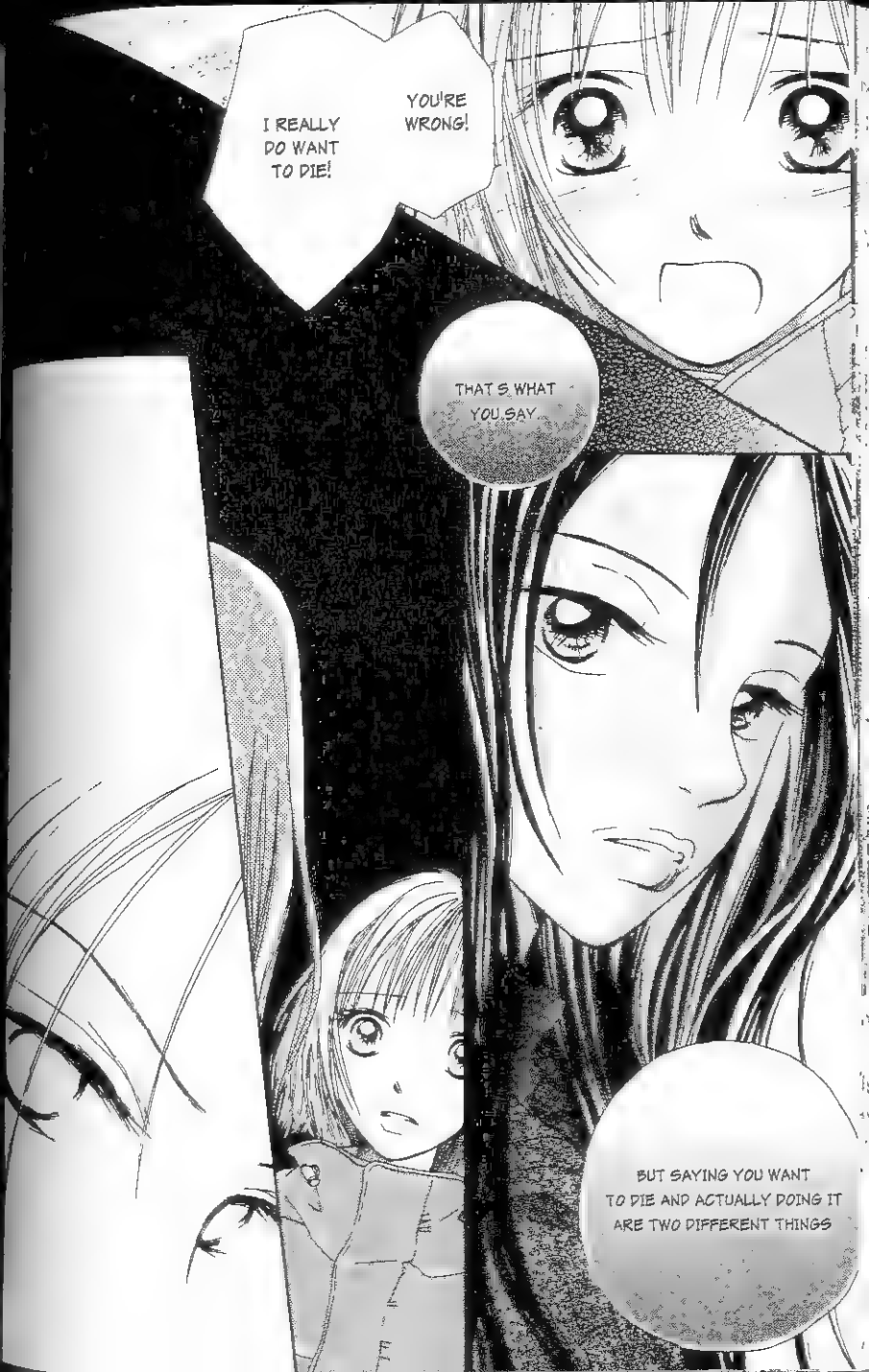
I THINK THEY MIGHT PUT IT BACK.
AND THAT KIND OF JUICE ISN'T EVEN IN THAT VENDING MACHINE.
THERE'S NO REASON TO GET THESE KIDS MIXED UP IN THIS.
AND THE CAP'S OPEN.
JUST ONE SIP WILL BE ENOUGH.
IF IT'S THE REAL THING, HE'LL HAVE CONVULSIONS AND DIE. IF HE DOESN'T TAKE A LETHAL DOSE, HE'LL FAINT.
LOOK, HE'S DRINKING!

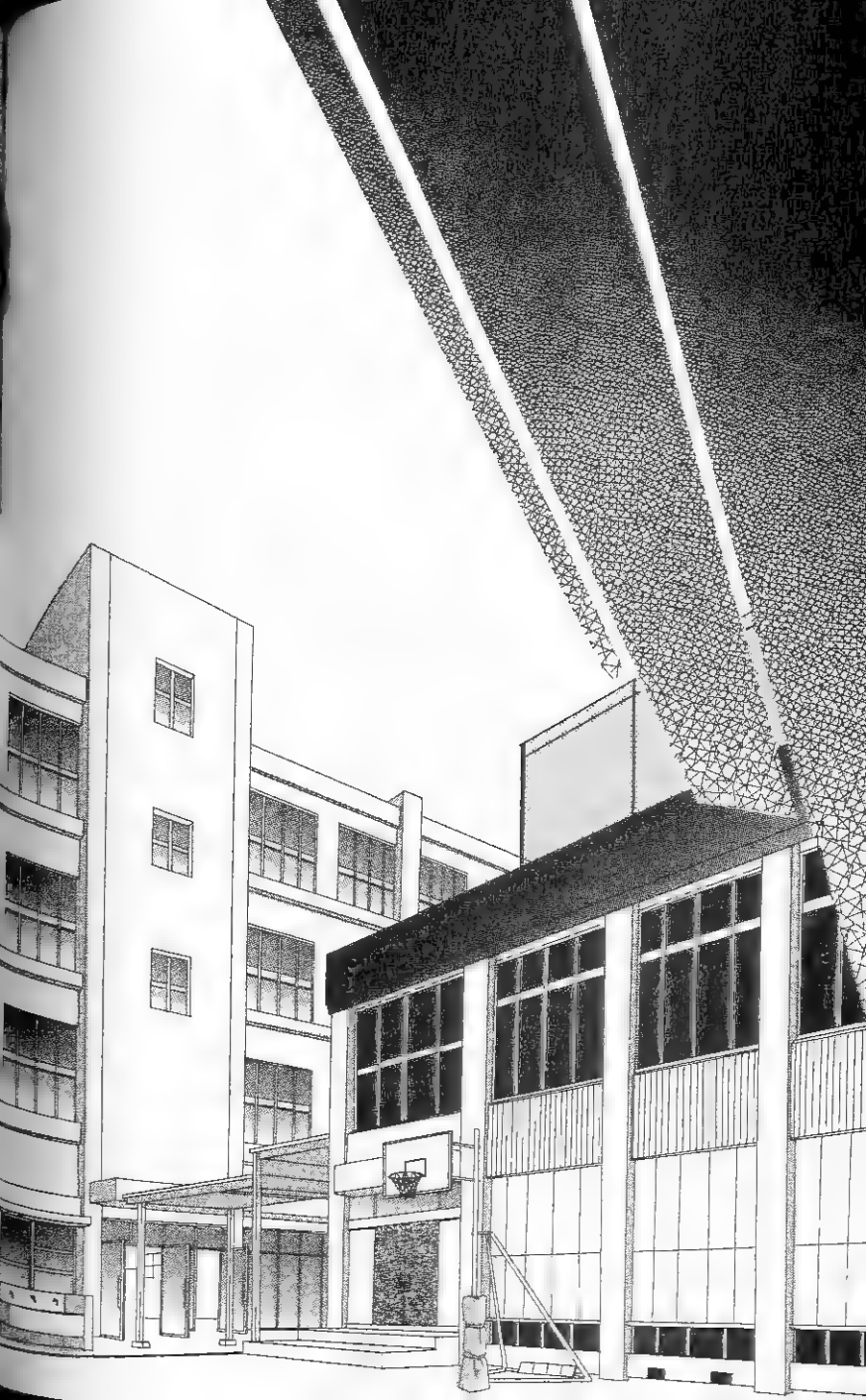
POW

??
I JUST CAN'T GET OTHER PEOPLE MIXED UP IN THIS.
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO SHOULD DIE.
THIS IS WRONG!

.....
WELL, THEN...
DRINK IT.
ドク
ドク

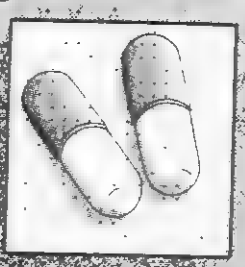
YOU JUST GET OFF IN WALLOWING IN YOUR OWN SADNESS
YOU'RE HAVING FUN PRETENDING YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO KILL YOURSELF
YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO DIE HANATSU

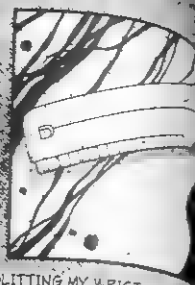

I REALLY DO WANT TO DIE!
YOU'RE WRONG!
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY
BUT SAYING YOU WANT TO DIE AND ACTUALLY DOING IT ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS



"YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO DIE, MANATSU. YOU'RE HAVING FUN PRETENDING YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO KILL YOURSELF."

BUT I REALLY DID WANT TO DIE





BUT SLITTING MY WRIST FOR THE FIRST TIME FELT SO NICE

"BUT SAYING YOU WANT TO DIE AND ACTUALLY DOING IT ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS."

UNTIL I CAN ACTUALLY GO THROUGH WITH KILLING MYSELF, I'M GOING TO BE STUCK IN THIS WORLD...

1-A

I WONDER IF I'VE GOTTEN SCARED OF DYING.

Morning!

Morning!

THE SENDER
DID YOU STUDY FOR THE TEST? I HAVEN'T AT ALL! I'M IN TROUBLE!
SHE SAYS SHE DIDN'T STUDY, BUT SHE PROBABLY DID. SHE GETS NOTHING BUT STRAIGHT A'S.
OKAY, NEXT!
IT'S THE SAME OLD E-MAIL I GET BEFORE EVERY SINGLE TEST.
HUH? THERE WAS ANOTHER PERSON BACK THERE?
NO WAY! HE SKIPPED OVER ME...
OH, MY TURN!
LET'S SEE...
SEATING CHART
YOU'RE, UM...
THAT'S SATO, RIGHT?

HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW IF I'M IN HIS CLASS OR NOT.

IT'S DECEMBER AND HE ST- DOESN'T REMEMBER MY NAME!

I HAVE ABSOLUTELY ZERO IMPACT ON PEOPLE

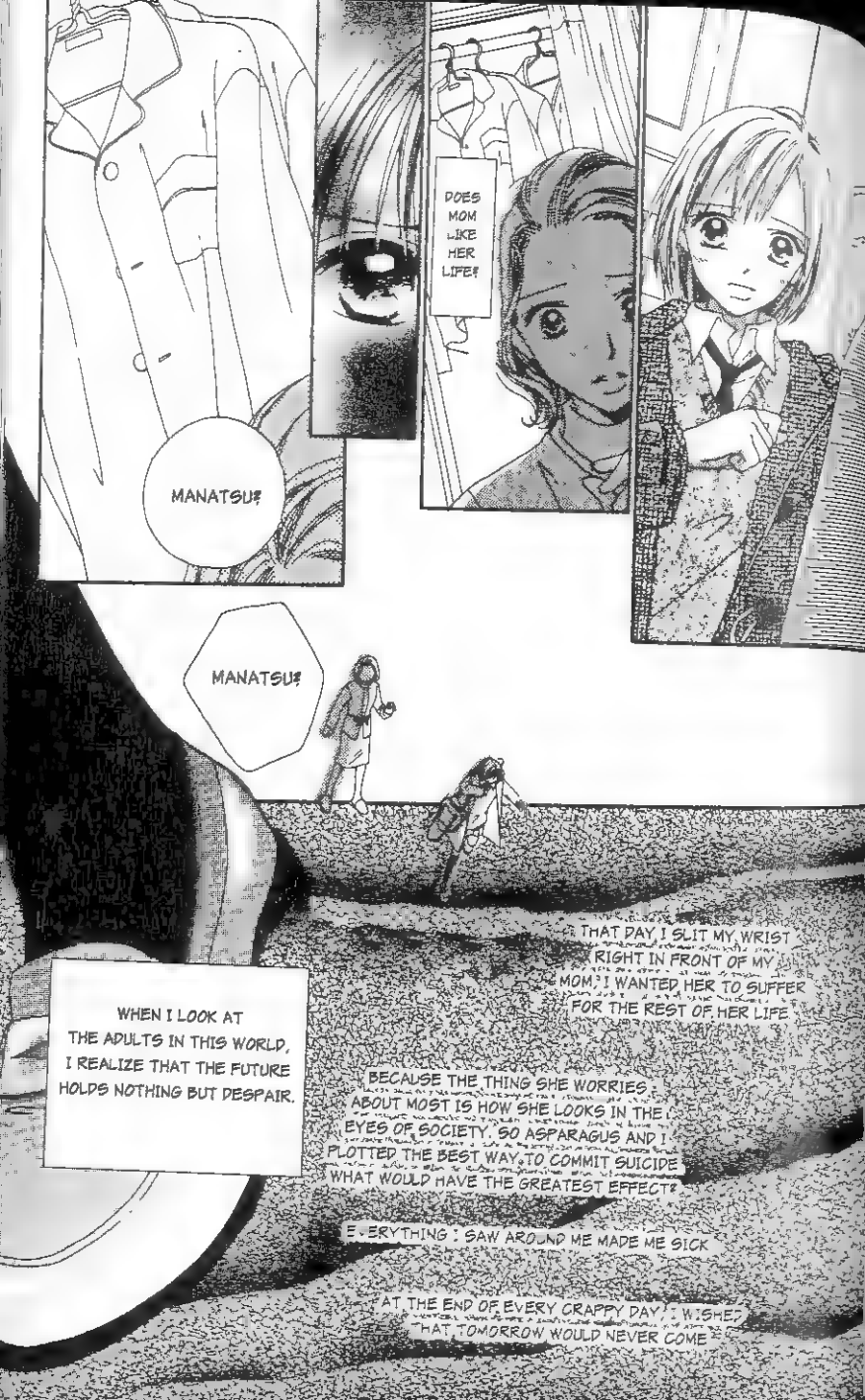
BUT JUST ONE MORE STEP...

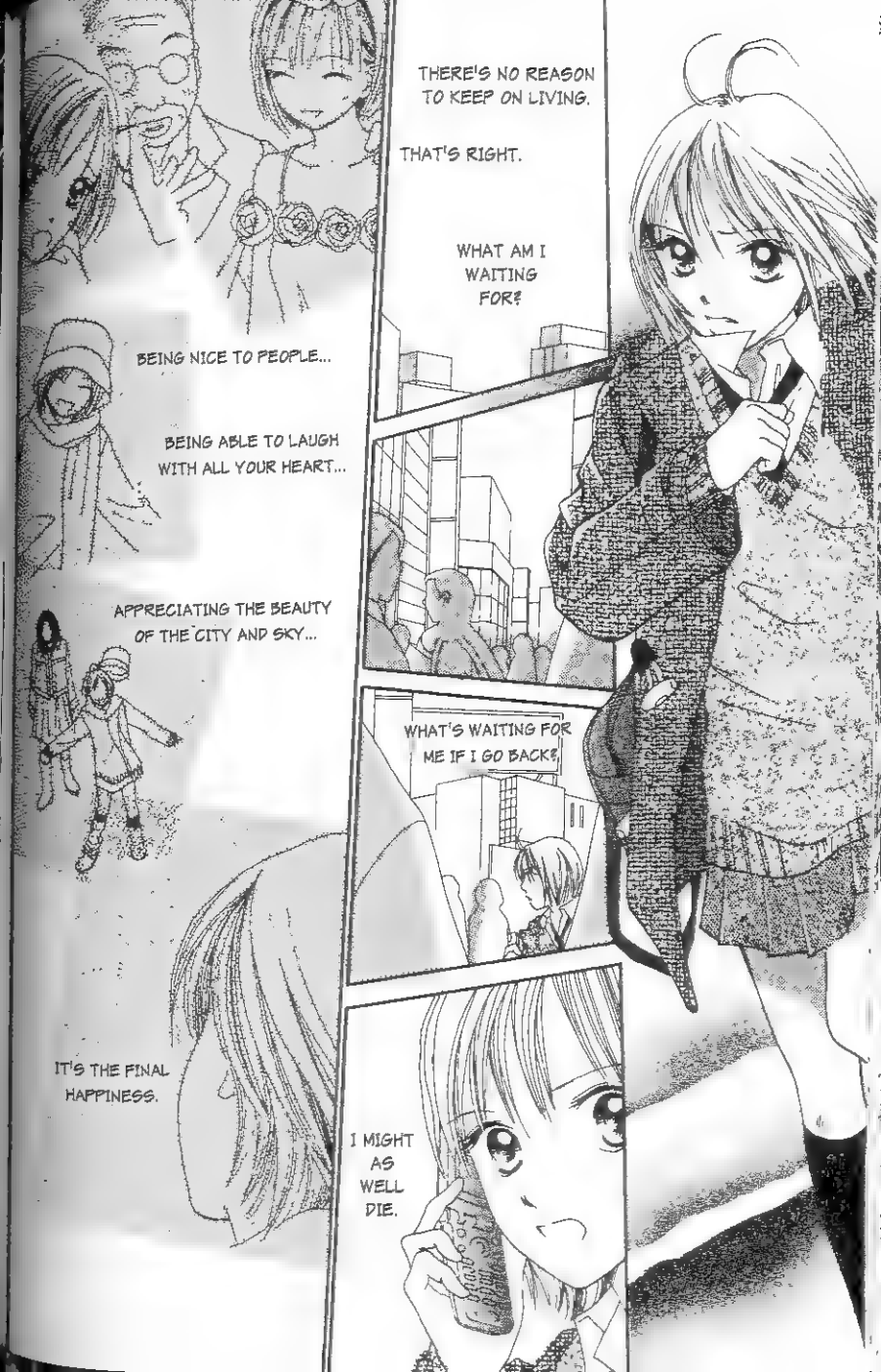
...AND I COULD DESTROY MYSELF AND THE PEOPLE AROUND ME.

I GET IT NOW...

THIS KIND OF DAY IS GOING TO REPEAT ITSELF OVER AND OVER FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE.

YOU'LL BE SEEING A FEMALE DOCTOR. SHE JUST WANTS TO TRY TALKING TO YOU...
ME? SEE A PSYCHIATRIST?
.....
PLEASE, DO IT FOR ME.
ALL RIGHT, MANATSU.
I'M NOT DOING IT.
THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF PLACE I NEED TO GO.
ARE TESTS REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?
HUH? BUT...
IF I TRY REALLY HARD, CAN I HAVE A HAPPY FUTURE?
IF I DO WELL, CAN I GET INTO A GOOD COLLEGE?
YOU HAVE TO GET BETTER SOON. FINAL EXAMS ARE COMING UP.
BUT I THINK YOU MIGHT BE SICK, DEAR.
YOU NEED TO BE TREATED.


DOES MOM LIKE HER LIFE?
MANATSU?
MANATSU?
THAT DAY, I SLIT MY WRIST RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY MOM. I WANTED HER TO SUFFER FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE.
WHEN I LOOK AT THE ADULTS IN THIS WORLD, I REALIZE THAT THE FUTURE HOLDS NOTHING BUT DESPAIR.
BECAUSE THE THING SHE WORRIES ABOUT MOST IS HOW SHE LOOKS IN THE EYES OF SOCIETY. SO ASPARAGUS AND I PLOTTED THE BEST WAY TO COMMIT SUICIDE WHAT WOULD HAVE THE GREATEST EFFECT?
EVERYTHING I SAW AROUND ME MADE ME SICK
AT THE END OF EVERY CRAPPY DAY, I WISHED THAT TOMORROW WOULD NEVER COME.


THERE'S NO REASON TO KEEP ON LIVING.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT AM I WAITING FOR?
BEING NICE TO PEOPLE...
BEING ABLE TO LAUGH WITH ALL YOUR HEART...
APPRECIATING THE BEAUTY OF THE CITY AND SKY...
WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME IF I GO BACK?
IT'S THE FINAL HAPPINESS.
I MIGHT AS WELL DIE.

WAIT, ASPARAGUS
ASPARAGUS
THERE'S NO MORE REASON LEFT FOR ME TO HESITATE
ASPARAGUS!
IT'LL BE SIMPLE FOR ME TO OPEN THE DOOR TO THE WORLD OF DEATH

I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D GONE AHEAD OF ME.
I THINK DYING ALONE IS LONELY, TOO...
DID YOU GET BULLIED BY THOSE GIRLS AGAIN?
I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GREAT IF I COULD BE A HERO AND SAVE YOU FROM THOSE GIRLS.
.....
THAT'D BE GREAT. BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

OR START STUDYING. THERE WERE A LOT OF THINGS I WAS GOING TO DO.
OR START DOING SOME SERIOUS WORK AT THAT SEX SHOP.
IF I COULDN'T DO THAT, THEN I WAS GOING TO RUN AWAY.
BUT THEY WERE ALL IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME.
PEOPLE PROBABLY SAY...
...THAT WE'RE WEAK...
...THAT WE NEVER PUT EFFORT INTO ANYTHING.
AND THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE UNLESS WE DIE.
BUT I THINK THAT IF WE DIE, THINGS WILL CHANGE.
I CAN HEAR IT.

SOMETIMES MY EARS START RINGING AND I CAN HEAR A VOICE
IT TELLS ME "IT'S ALL RIGHT TO DIE"
CAN YOU HEAR IT MANATSU?
"IT'S ALL RIGHT TO DIE"
"IT'S ALL RIGHT TO DIE"

IF I CUT MY WRIST, IT WON'T HURT.
IT'LL BE JUST LIKE FALLING ASLEEP, DRUNK FROM THE SMELL OF MY OWN BLOOD AS I FEEL ITS WARMTH.
IF THAT'S WHAT "DEATH" IS...
...I'M NOT AFRAID.
チキチキ
I'LL GO AHEAD OF YOU
I HAVE THIS FEELING THAT IF I DON'T DO IT TODAY, I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO IT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE
IF I'M GOING TO KILL MYSELF IT HAS TO BE TODAY

IF I HAVE NOTHING...
IF I CAN'T DO ANYTHING...
I'VE DECIDED THAT COMMITTING SUICIDE IS THE ONLY WAY TO PROVE MY EXISTENCE.
THEN COMMITTING SUICIDE WILL BE THE ONLY THING I CAN BE PROUD OF DOING IN MY ENTIRE 16 YEARS OF LIFE.
PLEASE USE THIS!

IT'S STRANGE...
JUST WHEN I'M GOING TO KILL MYSELF...
...ALL THESE STUPID LITTLE THINGS KEEP POPPING IN MY HEAD, LIKE THE MANGA I BORROWED BUT DIDN'T RETURN YET, OR THE MELON BREAD I LEFT IN MY DESK.
OH, NO! ASPARAGUS'S PICTURE!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MANATSU.
OH, NO...
ガし
...UM...
HERE YOU GO
BUT THIS IS THE PICTURE YOU WANTED TO USE FOR YOUR FUNERAL!

WAAAH!
OH, NO! I WANTED TO CUT MY WRIST, BUT I'M GOING TO DIE IN AN ACCIDENT!
ASPARAGUS, HELP ME!
HEY, ASPARAGUS!

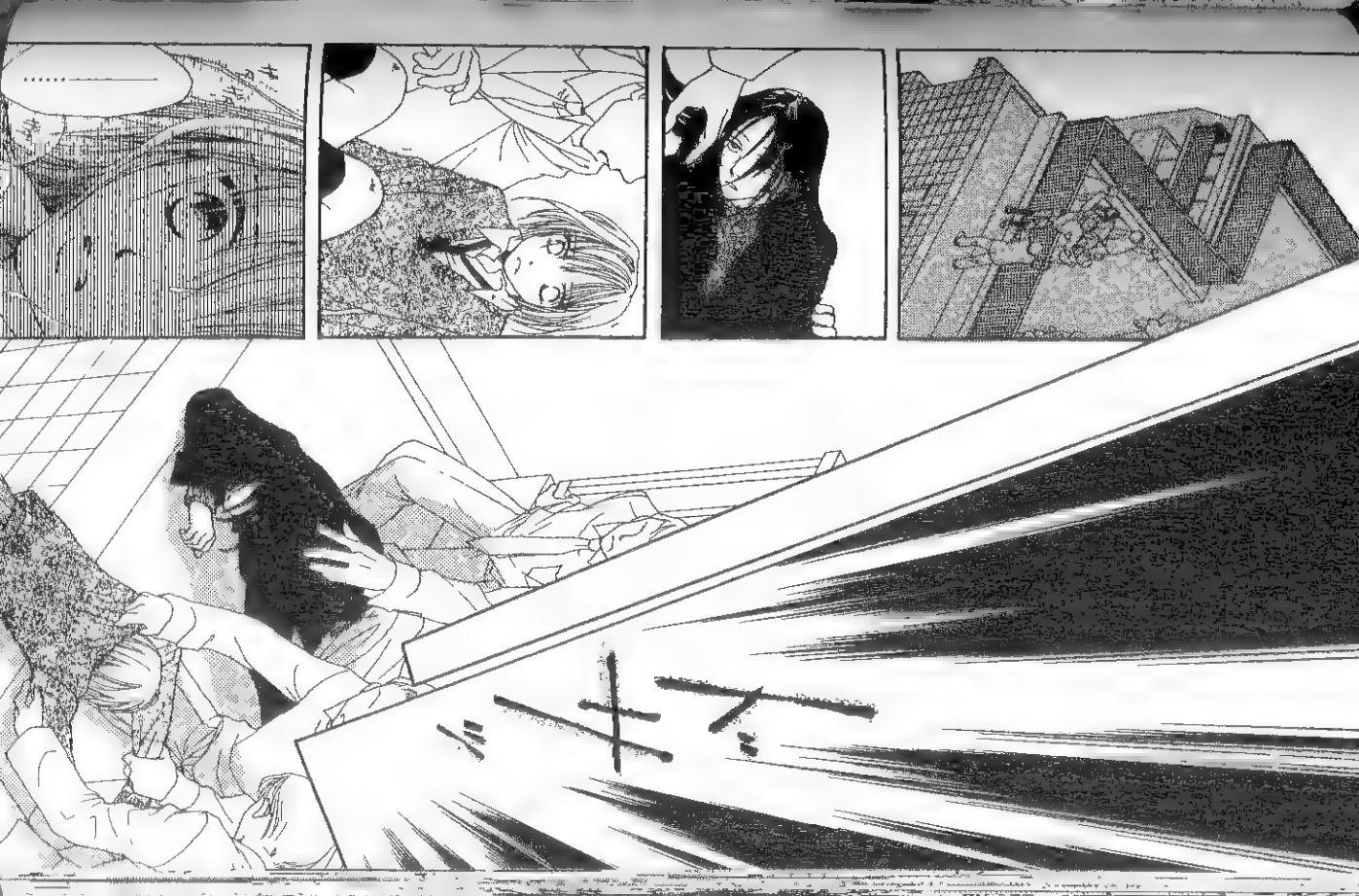
ズズ…
AH…
AAAUGH
ズ…
LET'S JUMP TOGETHER
IT'LL HAVE A HUGE IMPACT IF WE FALL TO OUR DEATHS TOGETHER.
IT'LL EVEN BE IN THE NEWSPAPERS.
WHAT ARE YOJ SAYING, ASPARAGUS? H-HURRY!
IF I FALL, I'LL DEFINITELY DIE!
BUT IT FEELS MORE LIKE 100 OR 200 STORIES.
THIS SHOULD ONLY BE ABOUT 16 STORIES UP.

WHAT ARE WE COMPARED TO THAT? WHY DID WE HAVE A LAST MEAL AND EAT WHATEVER WE WANTED? I JUST WANT TO DIE PEACEFULLY AND BEAUTIFULLY.
A ASPARAGUS?
PEOPLE WHO CUT THEIR WRISTS OR HANG THEMSELVES ARE SMART. THEY DIE ALONE IN ONE CLEAN SHOT.
IT'S NAIVE TO THINK THAT DYING ALONE WOULD BE LONELY. A SUICIDE THAT ENDS IN FAILURE IS NOTHING TO BOAST ABOUT.
IT'S NO GOOD! I'M GOING TO FALL!
I'M GOING TO FALL!
.....!!
MY HAND'S SLIPPING I CAN'T HOLD ON ANYMORE.
ASPAR-AGUS!

NOOOOOO!
STOP IT! STOP IT, ASPARAGUS!
I'M SCARED! I'M SCARED!
NO! I HATE THIS!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

SOMEBODY! HELP ME!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE! I DON'T WANT TO DIE! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
JUMP. I'M JUMPING.
DON'T GET THE PEDESTRIANS INVOLVED IN THIS
AAAAUGH!
EVEN IF THEY DO SAVE MY LIFE, I'D PROBABLY STILL BE PARALYZED. DO YOU WANT TO SEE ME LIKE THAT?
I'M GONNA DO IT IN ONE SHOT.
STOP! STOP IT!
CALL THE POLICE!
Aaaugh
IT'S NO USE! THEY WON'T GET HERE IN TIME!
ONE OF THEM IS GOING TO JUMP!
Look over there!
HELP ME!
#7

I CAN SEE IT...THE DOOR THAT LEADS TO THE WORLD OF DEATH.
I NEVER KNEW IT WAS THIS COLOR...
NO!
ASPARAGUS!



THE DOOR TO THE WORLD OF DEATH IS A HEAVY ONE.
I COULDN'T OPEN THE DOOR
I COULDN'T DO IT
I COULDN'T KILL MYSELF

THE POLICE TOOK ME IN BECAUSE OF MY ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.
AND FROM THAT DAY ON, MOM STOPPED HANGING OUT DAD'S LAUNDRY.
TODAY IS CHRISTMAS EVE,
AND THE WHOLE CITY IS DECKED IN LIGHTS...
I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT SHE MEANT BY THAT.
ASPARAGUS ONCE TOLD ME ON THE PHONE, "CUTTING YOUR WRIST CAN BE A PAIN, TOO."
I FELT SO DRAINED...LIKE I LOST ALL MY ENERGY. I SKIPPED FINALS AND GRADUATION.

YES, THAT'S ME
HUH? TANAKA'S FUNERAL?
UMM, WHO IS THAT?
NEXT IS...
YOU'RE ON THE LIST OF NAMES
OH, NO...
THAT MUST BE...
IT'S ASPARAGUS'S NAME!
田中家告別式

THE FIRST ONE TO SPOT HER WAS THE APARTMENT MANAGER.
WATER WAS LEAKING INTO THE APARTMENT BELOW WHEN THE MANAGER WENT TO CHECK IT OUT. SHE FOUND ASPARAGUS.
HER PARENTS WEREN'T HOME IT SEEMS KIND OF COMPLICATED
SHE DIDN'T LEAVE A SUICIDE NOTE..
SHE'D CUT HER WRISTS IN THE BATHROOM.
IT WAS ONE CLEAN CUT... NO HESITATION
WH-WHAT'S WITH ASPARAGUS'S PICTURE?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PICTURES WE TOOK WAY BACK WHEN?
THEY'RE USING A REALLY BAD PIC
HOW LONG AGO DID THEY TAKE IT?
OF COURSE, IT WASN'T IN THE PAPER.
IT'S TOSHIE!
RIE WAS...
ALL OF THE PEOPLE GIVING EULOGIES ARE GETTING ASPARAGUS'S NAME WRONG.
THERE'S CHANTING AND INCENSE.
AND A LOT OF SEATS ARE EMPTY
WHEN ASPARAGUS WAS COMMITTING SUICIDE... I WAS SITTING IN FRONT OF THE TV EATING CANDY!
OUR TEACHER IS ON VACATION SO HE'S NOT EVEN HERE
ISN'T THIS JUST WRONG?
HELLO
ALL RIGHT, PLEASE PAY YOUR FINAL RESPECTS.

I'M SCARED TO LOOK!
THIS ISN'T PRETTY AT ALL!
THIS IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE HAD IMAGINED!
SHE MUST'VE BEEN BRAVE, THOUGH.
I'M SURPRISED SHE'D JUST KILL HERSELF LIKE THAT!
BUT I WONDER WHY SHE KILLED HERSELF?
Kita Junior High graduates over here!
Now, let's see

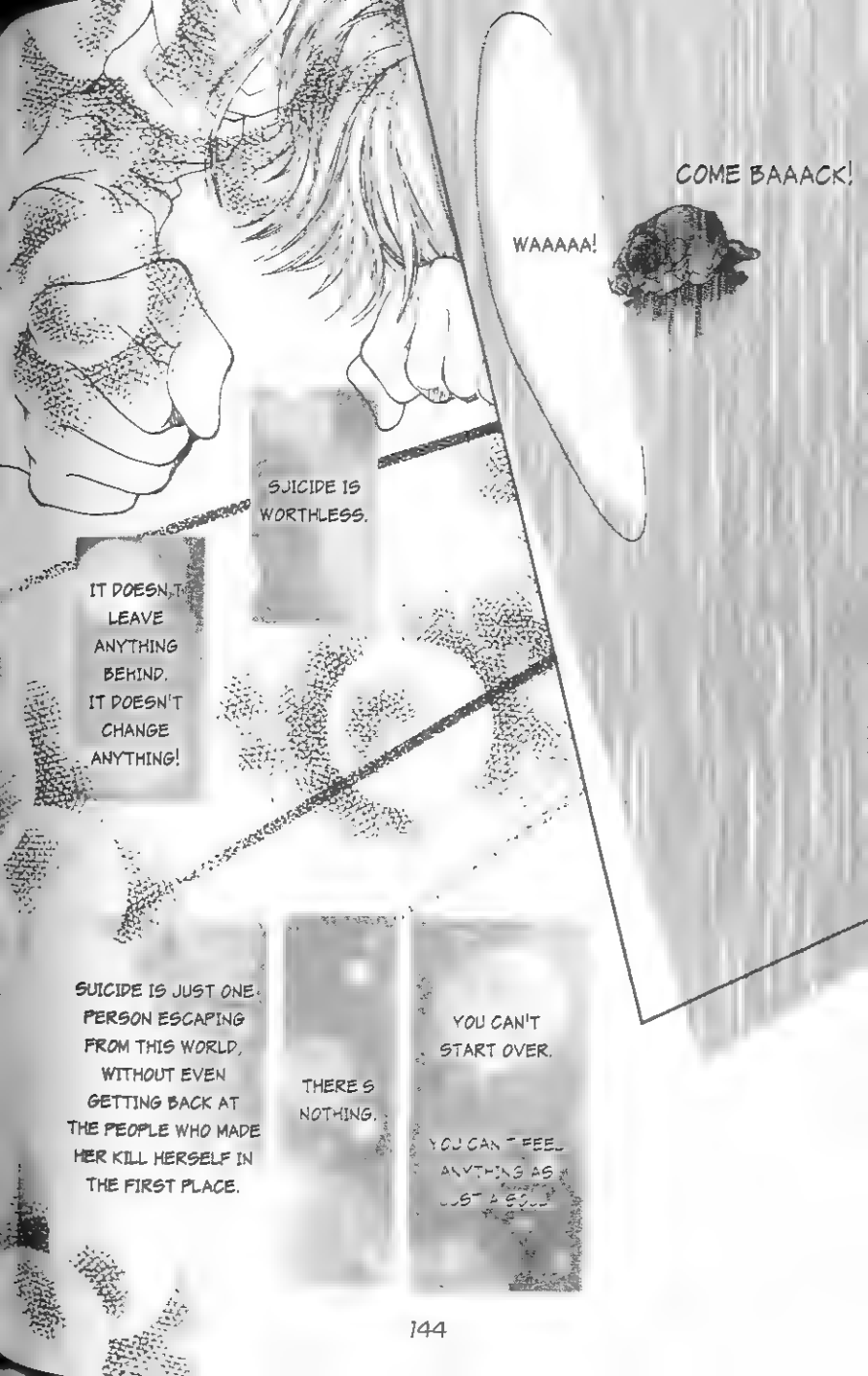
What the?
COME ON...
Asparagus?
Huh?
DIDN'T YOU KNOW SHE WAS CUTTING HER WRISTS EITHER?
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW WHY ASPARAGUS KILLED HERSELF? DIDN'T YOU GO TO THE SAME JUNIOR HIGH?
!!
IT'S THEM!
I KNOW WHY SHE KILLED HERSELF.
SHE WAS BEING BULLIED.
WHA...
SHE KILLED HERSELF BECAUSE SHE WAS BEING BULLIED BY THESE GIRLS!

DON'T TRY ACTING SO INNOCENT!
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
Hey! Stop it!
YOU REMEMBER ME, DON'T YOU?
SHE KILLED HERSELF TO ESCAPE BEING BULLIED!
YOU'RE THE SAME AS MURDERERS!
IT'S YOUR FAULT!
THEY WERE BULLYING HER EVEN AFTER GRADUATION!
That's right.
THERE'S NO WAY SHE WAS STILL BEING PICKED ON
SHE DID GET TEASED A LITTLE IN JUNIOR HIGH, BUT THAT WAS BACK BEFORE WE ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL.
THEY MADE HER MASTURBATE AND TOOK PICTURES!
THEY SPRAYED HER WITH BUG SPRAY!
THEY KEPT DEMANDING HUGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY FROM HER!

BUT...
BESIDES, BEING TEASED ISN'T A BIG ENOUGH REASON TO KILL YOURSELF.
HEY, YOU, TAKE IT OUTSIDE!
TALK ABOUT THIS LATER.
DO THESE GIRLS REALLY THINK THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HER SUICIDE?
"Isn't a big enough reason...?!"
BUT WE ONLY DID IT BECAUSE WE WERE HER FRIENDS.
SURE, SHE LENT US SOME MONEY. AND, SURE, WE DID PLAY SOME PRACTICAL JOKES ON HER.
AND THERE WASN'T A SUICIDE NOTE ANYWAY.
She was depressed.
There has to be another reason!
She wasn't bullied.
THEY SHOULD'VE REALIZED WHY YOU KILLED YOURSELF, EVEN WITHOUT A NOTE, RIGHT?
WHAT'S GOING ON, ASPARAGUS?
WHAT'S GOING ON? NONE OF THEM BELIEVE
THEY SHOULDN'T BE SAYING THIS!

I'LL GET CHANGED REALLY QUICKLY AND BE RIGHT THERE.
YEAH, I'M STILL IN MY UNIFORM.
SEE YOU.
WAIT! WAIT!
WE'RE GOING HOME.
ARE YOU WATCHING THIS, ASPARAGUS?
THEY'RE NOT BOTHERED AT ALL
...THEY'RE JUST WALKING AWAY
THEY
BOUT IT
'S IT
ST GOING TO
HEIR LIVES
G HAPPENED
EN THOUGH YOU
MITTED SUICIDE

SRR
COME BACK ASPARAGUS!
YOUR DEATH WAS CHOSEN FOR YOU BY A BUNCH OF EVIL HUMAN BEINGS!
WAAA


COME BAAACK!
WAAAAA!
SUICIDE IS WORTHLESS.
IT DOESN'T LEAVE ANYTHING BEHIND. IT DOESN'T CHANGE ANYTHING!
SUICIDE IS JUST ONE PERSON ESCAPING FROM THIS WORLD, WITHOUT EVEN GETTING BACK AT THE PEOPLE WHO MADE HER KILL HERSELF IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THERE'S NOTHING.
YOU CAN'T START OVER.
YOU CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING AS JUST A SOUL.

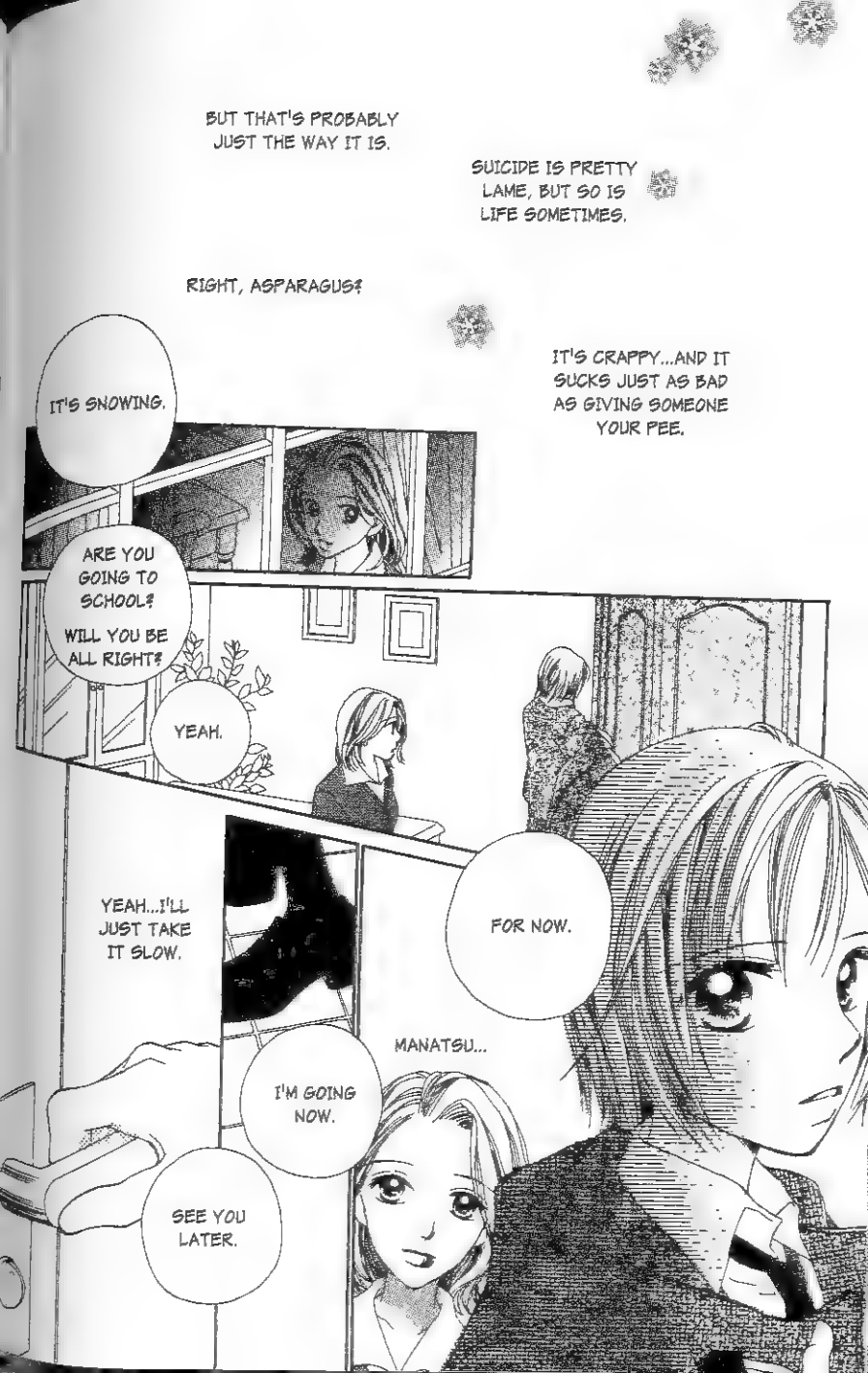
THAT'S ALL.
I'VE TALKED WITH YOUR DAD.
WE'VE DECIDED TO OFFICIALLY GET DIVORCED.
I'M GOING TO BE SWITCHING BACK TO MY MAIDEN NAME, OKAY?
MANATSU, I'M SORRY. I...
HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN IT, MOM?
WHAT?
YEAH.

THEY SAY THAT IT'S "HEAVIER THAN THE EARTH," BUT THAT DOESN'T REALLY SAY MUCH...
THEY SAY LIFE IS HEAVY. BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
DOES LIFE HAVE ANY MEANING?
I WANT AN ANSWER I CAN BELIEVE IN.
.....
HA HA!
I'VE HEARD A LOT OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE'S OPINIONS ON THE MEANING OF LIFE, BUT...
THEY TAUGHT ME THAT IN SCHOOL, TOO.
.....
I WANTED TO MAKE FRIENDS. IT DIDN'T HAVE TO BE A LOT...EVEN JUST ONE PERSON I COULD CALL A FRIEND WOULD'VE BEEN OKAY.
I WANTED TO GET INTO SOME CLUBS. I WANTED TO DO LOTS OF THINGS.
I WANTED TO BE REBORN AS A NEW ME.
HUH?
LISTEN, MANATSU, WHEN YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T GOING TO DO EVERYTHING I TOLD YOU ANYMORE, WHEN YOU WERE ACCEPTED TO Y HIGH SCHOOL, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO DO? TRY TO REMEMBER.
THINK BACK..
.....

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS JUST STARE AT THE POSTERS ON YOUR WALL OR AT THE CEILING FOR A WHILE.
OF COURSE, IT WON'T BE THAT SIMPLE. YOU'LL GET FRUSTRATED AND YOU'LL LOSE CONFIDENCE SOMETIMES.
AND THERE WILL PROBABLY BE TIMES WHEN YOU'LL GET BORED, AND YOU'LL WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE.
I THOUGHT ABOUT A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS, BUT THEY NEVER WENT WEL.
MANATSU TRY ONE MORE TIME.
STARTING TODAY, JUST TRY ONE MORE TIME TO MAKE THAT IMAGE OF YOURSELF A REALITY.
BUT...
I CAN'T SAY IT VERY WELL EITHER, BUT...
...I WANT YOU TO LIVE.

AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALIVE, THAT'S ENOUGH
EVERY TIME I FACED DEATH,
I FELT AN ATTACHMENT TO "LIFE" AND HOPE WELLED UP INSIDE ME
WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO FALL FROM THE ROOF THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I REALLY FELT "DEATH"
'48

STATE OF MIND
DAVE'S A CHANGE'S
THE MOMEN


BUT THAT'S PROBABLY JUST THE WAY IT IS.
SUICIDE IS PRETTY LAME, BUT SO IS LIFE SOMETIMES.
RIGHT, ASPARAGUS?
IT'S CRAPPY...AND IT SUCKS JUST AS BAD AS GIVING SOMEONE YOUR PEE.
IT'S SNOWING.
ARE YOU GOING TO SCHOOL?
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?
YEAH.
YEAH...I'LL JUST TAKE IT SLOW.
FOR NOW.
MANATSU...
I'M GOING NOW.
SEE YOU LATER.

THE END

あやまち

Mistakes

"EVEN IF YOU ARE FORCED TO BE APART,
YOU SHOULD STILL WANT THE ONE YOU LOVE TO BE HAPPY."
I THOUGHT THAT WAS ONE OF THE
MOST BEAUTIFUL THOUGHTS IN THE WORLD.
IF WE LOVE EACH OTHER,
WE DON'T HAVE TO SEE EACH OTHER ALL THE TIME.

BUT NOW, I WONDER.

AS LONG AS WE'RE LIVING ON THIS EARTH,
THE TIME COULD COME WHEN WE MEET AGAIN,
IN A WAY WE LEAST EXPECTED IT, RIGHT?
SO I HAVE TO KEEP TRYING TO MAKE
MYSELF A BETTER PERSON.

EVERY TIME I REMEMBER RYO,
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE APART,
MY HEART WARMS AT THE THOUGHT
THAT I WAS ABLE TO MEET
SOMEONE WHO FELT THAT WAY

RYO,
I WILL TREASURE WHAT HAPPENED
THAT SUMMER FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE

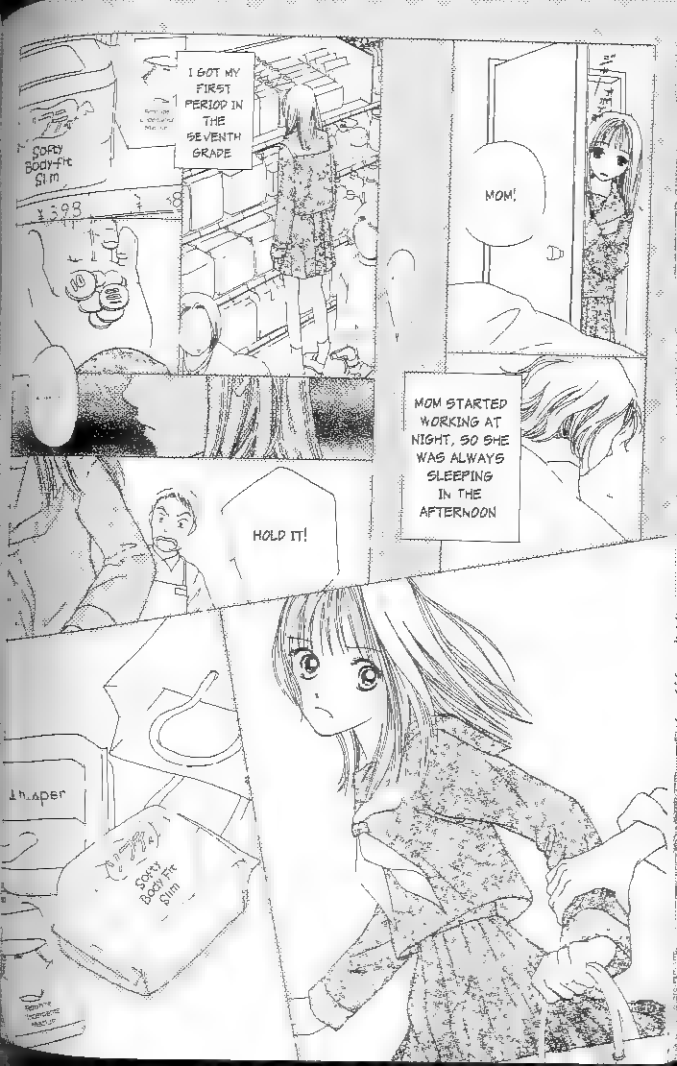
WILL YOU GIVE ME A KISS?
$250? OKAY
CALL ME REINA.
HA HA HA! OF COURSE.
WHERE ARE YOU NOW? I'M HOLDING A YELLOW SHOPPING BAG, SO YELL OUT IF YOU SEE ME
Ring Ring Club
Women Only
Toll-Free Service
HELLO?
UGH. THIS IS THE SAME OLD GUY AS LAST WEEK! HE SAID THE LOVE HOTEL COST $80, SO HE ONLY GAVE ME $170!
PASS!
The guy with the yellow bag
THAT VOICE. YOU'RE THAT KANA GIRL I TALKED TO BEFORE.
HELLO! I'M NAO I'M A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL.
"NEVER MIND." "NEVER MIND?!" WHY, YOU!
HE DUMPED ME!
WAIT!
NEVER MIND
EH.

GAAA-AAH.
I CAN'T GET ANY GUYS
I NEED TO TAKE A SHOWER
WITH ONLY FIVE OR SIX MESSAGES, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET MORE CUSTOMERS?
AND THERE AREN'T ENOUGH OTHER MESSAGES.
THIS ONE IS ONLY FOR PHONE SEX.
Party Line Catch Love 1-900
Message Die Sweet
Women Chih Die

ALL I'M AFTER IS SOME FOOD TO EAT TODAY, AND A BED TO SLEEP IN TONIGHT
HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW A THING ABOUT ME, YET HE WANTS ME TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE AND MY DREAMS?
YEAH, RIGHT!
EVEN THOUGH THEY'D STAND OUT BETTER IN FRONT OF THE STATION
THIS PLACE HAS A LOT OF STREET PERFORMERS
"LOVE, FREEDOM, DREAMS, FUTURE."
MOM
SHADDAP!
YOU NEED TO GO ON WELFARE.
THE GAS AND ELECTRIC ARE TURNED OFF! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? THINK ABOUT YOUR TWO CHILDREN!
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT
YOSHIOKA. I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE! YOU BETTER PAY YOUR RENT NOW!

WHEN I WAS IN FIFTH GRADE, MY PARENTS GOT DIVORCED
I SHOULD'VE SEPARATED FROM HIM SOONER
THEY SAID I'D GET ALIMONY AND CHILD SUPPORT, BUT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY MONEY OUT OF THAT MAN YET
MOM.
I WONDER IF THIS WILL BE ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT AND TOMORROW MORNING
LOOK, YOSHIOKA'S COLLECTING THE LEFTOVERS AGAIN
Ugh
Kyūshoku Lunch Wagon
THEN GIVE ME THAT STRAWBERRY-SCENTED ERASER OR THAT PRETTY SKIRT
SHH! IDIOT!
WE FORMED THE "SAVE YOSHIOKA FOUNDATION"!
HERE, YOSHIOKA, THIS IS FOR YOU!
IT'S BRAND NEW!

YOU KNOW ABOUT HOT DOGS, LITTLE GIRL?
YOU WANNA TOUCH IT?
Skirt Chaser's Heaven
Cum Inside
OH! WOW!
I'M HOME
MY HOUSE TURNED INTO A HANGOUT FOR MY BROTHER AND HIS FRIENDS.
GO AWAY
THWAP THWAP
AAAAAH THAT'S IT THAT'S IT!
OOH
OOOH.
YOU KNOW, NO ONE'S GOING TO BOTHER US HERE.
I LEARNED WHAT A PENIS FELT LIKE AND WHAT SEMEN SMELLED LIKE IN SIXTH GRADE.


I GOT MY FIRST PERIOD IN THE SEVENTH GRADE
Sorry Body-fit Slim
MOM!
MOM STARTED WORKING AT NIGHT, SO SHE WAS ALWAYS SLEEPING IN THE AFTERNOON
HOLD IT!
Sorry Body-fit Slim

Hmm?
Hen meh
ARE YOU THE FRESHMAN WHO GOT BUSTED FOR SHOPLIFTING YESTERDAY?
THIS IS HOW YOU SHOPLIFT!
FUJITA ELECTRONICS VIDEO & TV
DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENSE
STOP THIEF!!
I DIDN'T WANT TO GO BACK HOME SO I STAYED AT A FRIEND'S PLACE.
IF I WAS HUNGRY I'D BLACKMAIL SOME MONEY OUT OF SOMEONE
WHOO!
HA HA HA HA HA
AND THEN I'D EAT AT A CONVENIENCE STORE OR AN ALL-YOU-CAN EAT RESTAURANT UNTIL MORNING

DO YOU THINK IT'S COOL TO COMMIT CRIMES?
YOU AGAIN HUH?
WHAT'S GOING ON? DO YOU JUST LIKE THE THRILL OR ARE YOU DOING IT TO SHOW OFF?
BLACKMAIL TODAY I SEE
JEEZ!
I NEVER GOT YOUR NAME
IN THE SPRING OF EIGHTH GRADE, I SOLD MY VIRGINITY FOR $15 TO A MAN IN HIS FIFTIES WHO I MET THROUGH A [illegible] LINE
IS THIS OKAY?

RIGHT NOW I HAVE 3 BUCKS.
. PLUS A FEW CLOTHES, SOME CIGARETTES, A CELL PHONE WITH A DEAD BATTERY .
AND A CONDOM.
It's not ighting
I GUESS I SHOULD CALL THE PARTY LINE AGAIN.
BECAUSE I WILL PROTECT YOUR SMILE
GO AHEAD AND CRY ON MY CHEST
HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING THE WHOLE TIME?

THANK YOU.
HEY! AREN'T YOU GOING TO THE STATION? YOU'RE HEADED TO THE PARK!
ARE YOU GOING TO THE SUBWAY, TOO?
IT'S OVER ALREADY? OH YEAH, IT'S TIME FOR THE LAST TRAIN.
ARE YOU GOING TO COME AND LISTEN TO ME AGAIN TOMORROW?
HMM. I GUESS NO ONE'S GOING TO TAKE ME IN TONIGHT
I'M SLEEPING OUTSIDE!
WELL, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT.
Oh

THERE WE GO
WHY DON'T YOU SPEND THE NIGHT AT MY PLACE?
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE TO HIM TOMORROW, SO I CAN'T TELL HIM MY REAL NAME.
I LOVE
SHERRY
REALLY? GREAT! SO YOU'RE SHERRY, HUH?
YUTAKA OZAKI HAS A SONG CALLED "SHERRY."
DO YOU KNOW IT? THE SONG I WAS SINGING BEFORE WAS OZAKI'S, TOO
PHEW! I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER NOW!
GOT IN THE SHOWER
WASHING HER CLOTHES
THEY WRITE LYRICS LIKE "BURNIN' RUBBER ON A STOLEN BIKE" AND "BREAKING THE WINDOWS OF THE SCHOOL."
BIKERS AND SCHOOL TEACHERS HATE OZAKI'S SONGS.
YOU'VE HEARD THEM, RIGHT?
BUT OZAKI'S NOT TELLING PEOPLE TO GO OUT AND STEAL BIKES OR BREAK SCHOOL WINDOWS.
HE DIED TEN YEARS AGO, BUT HIS CDS ARE STILL SELLING AT THE STORES
Are you even listening?
Yawn
Oh. You bought me a lighter
CHARGING
BORROWED HIS T-SHIRT

BACK WHEN HE WAS DOING CONCERTS, HE DIDN'T GET ANY APPLAUSE OR CALLS FOR ENCORES INSTEAD, THEY ALL YELLED "THAT'S ALL WRONG." AND "YOU IDIOT!"
My buddies know Ozaki back in the day.
Eh?
HEY DO YOU WANT TO HAVE SEX?
...
HIS VOICE COMPLETELY CHANGED
N-NO!
LIAR!
THEN WHY DID YOU INVITE ME HERE?!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS THINKING
Ha ha!
MEN ONLY SEE WOMEN AS SEX OBJECTS
SINCE HE'S NOT AN OLD MAN, I WOULDN'T EVEN TAKE ANY MONEY FROM HIM
IT'S OKAY. I'M NOT THE KIND OF WOMAN WHO WILL GO AROUND TALKING ABOUT IT AND GOSSIPING. THAT'S NOT ME.
HUH?
I'M NOT JUST A "MAN."

ボス
YOU'RE THE SAME WAY, RIGHT, SHERRY?
YOU'RE A PERSON . NOT JUST A "WOMAN"
HUH?
I'M A PERSON MY NAME IS RYOICHI SAKAI I'M A SOPHOMORE IN COLLEGE
IF HE DOESN'T WANT SEX, THEN WHAT DOES HE WANT?
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
HEH! HE'S SPREADING HIS FUTON OUT IN THE KITCHEN
ヒュオオ
GOOD NIGHT
OH!
SORRY, DID I WAKE YOU UP?
ガラ
HE'S JUST TAKING PITY ON ME.
OOOH, MAYBE HE'S A VOLUNTEER AT SOME SOCIETY THAT HELPS HOMELESS GIRLS!

NO WAY IT'S MORNING ALREADY! I FELL RIGHT TO SLEEP!
I HAVE TO GO TO WORK
SO HERE'S A KEY IF YOU WANT TO GO OUT JUST PUT IT IN THE MAILBOX WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH IT
HERE YOU GO
HUH?
WHAAAT? WE JUST MET AND HE'S GIVING ME HIS KEY?
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO TRUST ME WITH THIS?
I HAVE GOOD INTUITION
AND YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE A BAD PERSON.
Y-YOU FOOL!

What's going on?
THIS GUY DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO STEAL!
なんだよ～

THIS IS ALL I COULD GET FOR IT WITHOUT THE PROPER IDENTIFICATION
IN THIS DAY AND AGE, YOU SHOULDN'T TRUST PEOPLE
5000
1000
1000
日本銀行券
THANK YOU!
Pawn Shop
We Buy & Sell Anything
なんでもや
WE BUY HIGH AND SELL CHEAP

Aaah. I'm stuffed! Sooo happy!
YOUR STOMACH'S NOT GONNA GET FULL JUST PLAYING YOUR GUITAR, BUDDY
HE'S SO BAD.
WERE YOU LISTENING ALL THAT TIME?
YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE A BAD PERSON
THANK YOU!

PAWN SHOP
We Buy & Sell Anything
OPEN UP! OPEN UP!
I'M SORRY, I ALREADY SOLD IT.
EH?
I WANT TO BUY BACK THAT GUITAR I SOLD YOU THIS AFTERNOON! IF THIS ISN'T ENOUGH, I'LL BRING SOME MORE TOMORROW!
7
BODY
DESIGN
UM, UH, WELL.
AAAH! HE'S JUST SITTING THERE COMPLETELY FROZEN WHAT'LL I DO?
I-I'LL GIVE YOU THE MONEY BACK
THIS IS ALL I GOT, THOUGH.
I'M AN IDIOT! WHY DID I COME BACK AND CONFESS?
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
I GUESS I BETTER DISAPPEAR.
SEE YA!

IF IT WAS ANY OTHER GUY, AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
....
...I'D TRY TO MANIPULATE HIM WITH SEX, BUT .
.
..THIS GUY IS DIFFERENT.
カチ
カン
I CAN SING SONGS EVEN WITHOUT MY GUITAR.
THIS
THIS PERSON NAMED RYOICHI SAKAI

I'M...
SHERRY?
BATHROOM
..SORRY
IT'S BEEN TWENTY HOURS SINCE THEN BUT
..I FINALLY SAID IT
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SAID THOSE WORDS
SAYING "THANK YOU" AND "I M SORRY" IS HARDER THAN HAVING SEX.
BUT ONCE YOU'VE SAID THEM.
IT FEELS EVEN BETTER THAN SEX.

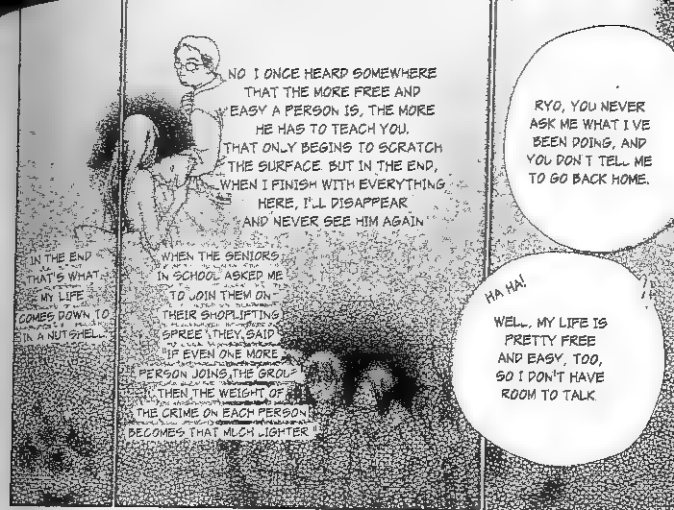
Huff huff huff!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
APOLOGIZING WON'T HELP ANYTHING
Are you serious?
WHAT? YOU LOST YOUR GUITAR?
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
GEH. RYO'S MUSIC BUDDIES?
YOU'RE KIDDING RIGHT? YAMA HANDED THAT GUITAR DOWN TO YOU!
WHAT'S GOING ON? EXPLAIN, RYO!
WHEN DID I START CALLING HIM RYO?
WAIT A MINUTE
This is no time to be laughing. Hey

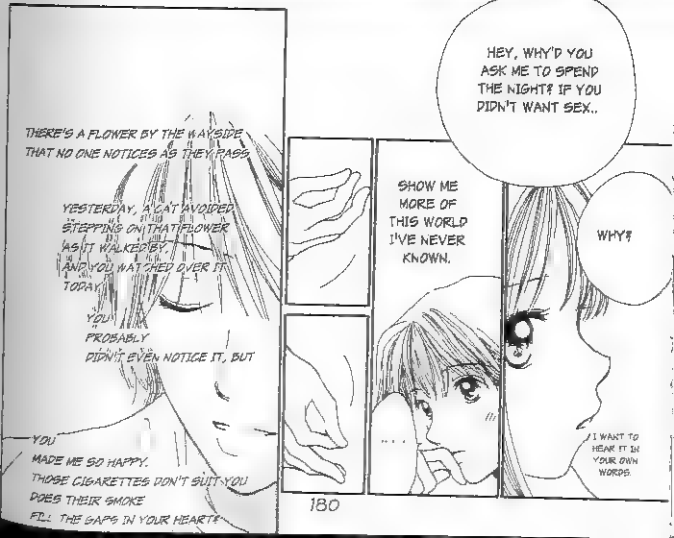
I HAVE TO SET IT BACK
TO HURRY
To the person who bought a guitar at the 'We Buy & Sell Anything' Pawn Shop on 7/20
Like this one
Please sell it back to me!!
69-1919
VALENTINE CALL
I HAVE TO HURRY UP AND MAKE SOME MONEY, TOO
I CAN'T BUY RYO'S GUITAR BACK WITH MONEY! SET FROM SELLING MYSELF

"YOU CALL THIS A RESUME?
"YOU WANT A JOB?
NO WAY CAN PAY
BY THE DAY BUT DON
YOU HAVE ANY IDENTIFICA
BUT
"JOB-HOPPERS ARE WELCOME.
BUT AREN'T YOU JUST
A JUNIOR HIGH GRADUATE?"
"THE ONLY WAY TO GET
AHOLD OF YOU IS BY CELL PHONE?
IS THIS ADDRESS YOUR OWN HOME?
IF NOT THEN "
PART-TIME WORK
INFORMATION
RESUME
COMPLETELY
REJECTED!
WHEN I WAS WORKING
THE PARTY LINE I
DIDN'T NEED A RESUME
OR IDENTIFICATION OR
AN ADDRESS I DIDN'T
EVEN HAVE TO GIVE MY
REAL NAME ALL I HAD
TO BE WAS A WOMAN
I DON'T KNOW
ANY WAY TO
EARN MONEY
EXCEPT BY
SELLING
MYSELF
HUFF
HUFF
SHERRY!

I'M SORRY! I'LL GET YOUR GUITAR BACK! I PROMISE! I'LL GET A PART-TIME JOB..
IT'S OKAY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.
LET'S GO
RYO.
LET'S GO HOME.
RYO

IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO YOU IF I DON'T GET IT BACK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO
IF ONLY I KNEW WHERE IN THE WORLD YOUR GUITAR WAS, I'D BE ABLE TO RELAX
I'M SURE THE PERSON WHO BOUGHT THE GUITAR HAS A REASON FOR MAKING MUSIC, TOO I'M SURE IT'S IMPORTANT TO HIM. MAYBE HE'LL EVEN BECOME A FAMOUS GUITARIST IN THE FUTURE!
AND WHEN HE DOES, HE'LL... TALK ABOUT HIS "PRECIOUS GUITAR" ON TV AND IN THE MAGAZINES!
ARE YOU SERIOUS, RYO?
OF COURSE! IT'S POSSIBLE!
BESIDES, SOMETHING DOESN'T HAVE TO BE RIGHT NEXT TO YOU FOR YOU TO TREASURE IT
...
I FELT LIKE RYO'S WORDS BUILT A PATH OUT OF WHAT I ONCE THOUGHT WAS A DEAD-END


NO. I ONCE HEARD SOMEWHERE THAT THE MORE FREE AND EASY A PERSON IS, THE MORE HE HAS TO TEACH YOU. THAT ONLY BEGINS TO SCRATCH THE SURFACE. BUT IN THE END, WHEN I FINISH WITH EVERYTHING HERE, I'LL DISAPPEAR AND NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.
IN THE END THAT'S WHAT MY LIFE COMES DOWN TO. IN A NUTSHELL...
WHEN THE SENIORS IN SCHOOL ASKED ME TO JOIN THEM ON THEIR SHOPLIFTING SPREE, THEY SAID "IF EVEN ONE MORE PERSON JOINS THE GROUP, THEN THE WEIGHT OF THE CRIME ON EACH PERSON BECOMES THAT MUCH LIGHTER."
RYO, YOU NEVER ASK ME WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING, AND YOU DON'T TELL ME TO GO BACK HOME.
HA HA!
WELL, MY LIFE IS PRETTY FREE AND EASY, TOO, SO I DON'T HAVE ROOM TO TALK.


THERE'S A FLOWER BY THE WAYSIDE THAT NO ONE NOTICES AS THEY PASS.
YESTERDAY, A CAT AVOIDED STEPPING ON THAT FLOWER AS IT WALKED BY. AND YOU, WHO STEPPED OVER IT TODAY.
YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE IT, BUT
YOU MADE ME SO HAPPY.
THOSE CIGARETTES DON'T SUIT YOU. DOES THEIR SMOKE FILL THE GAPS IN YOUR HEART?
SHOW ME MORE OF THIS WORLD I'VE NEVER KNOWN.
...
HEY, WHY'D YOU ASK ME TO SPEND THE NIGHT? IF YOU DIDN'T WANT SEX..
WHY?
I WANT TO HEAR IT IN YOUR OWN WORDS.

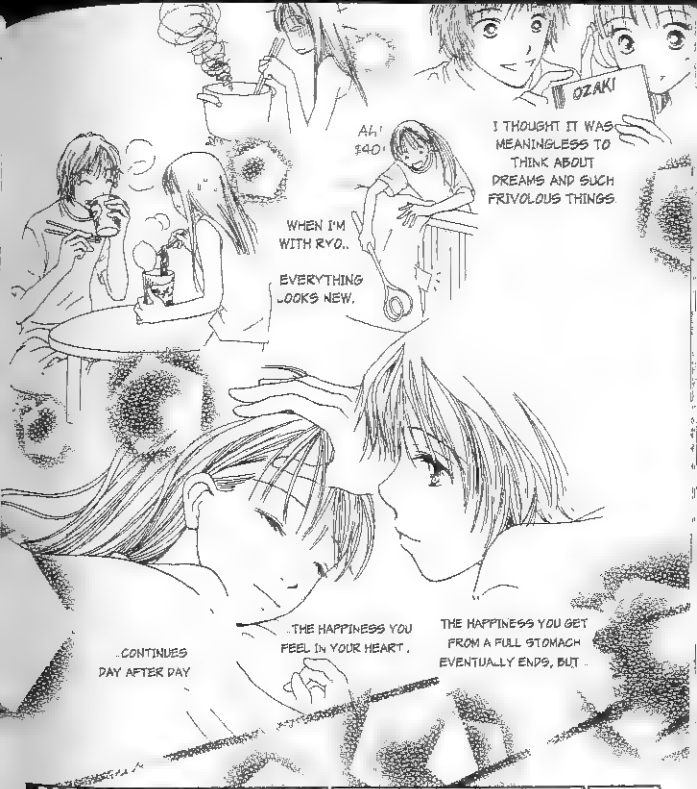
IMAGINE IF
ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD
FELT "HAPPINESS" AT THE SAME TIME.
JUST ONE SECOND IS ENOUGH.
AS LONG AS THAT MOMENT APPEARS, IT'S ENOUGH.
AS I WATCHED YOU
COMING OUT OF THE PHONE BOOTH, I THOUGHT
YOU WROTE THIS SONG?
ABOUT ME?
YEAH. I WROTE IT DURING MY BREAK AT WORK YESTERDAY
IF THERE COMES A TIME,
IF THERE COMES A MOMENT
WHEN YOU SMILE
THEN WON'T YOU SHOW
THAT MOMENT TO ME?
COME ON SMILE FOR ME, SHERRY.

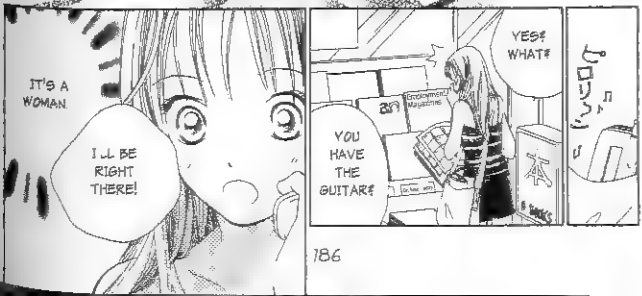
AS YOU WERE WRITING THIS, I WAS IN A PLACE I'VE NEVER BEEN BEFORE I WAS ALIVE IN YOUR HEART FOR THOSE FEW MINUTES.
THE EXACT LYRICS DON'T REALLY MATTER..
YEAH.
It's so bad! There's no way I could be a pro!
YOU WERE THINKING OF ME WHEN YOU WROTE THIS?
THIS IS...
THIS IS..
SHERRY?
.SO MUCH MORE THAN I DESERVE
RYO!
WAAAAH!

IT'S SATSUKI
I'M NOT SHERRY
MY REAL NAME IS SATSUKI OSHIOKA
チュッ
SATSUKI
YEAH

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME
I HAD SEX USING MY
REAL NAME.

YEAH. THE PROBABILITY IS CLOSE TO ZERO, BUT IT'D BE GREAT IF THERE WAS A MOMENT WHEN ALL SADNESS AND PAIN VANISHED 0.5 SECONDS WOULD BE ENOUGH.
AS FAST AS IT TAKES A TRAIN TO PASS BY A STATION.
ALL OF HUMANITY, HUH? BUT, RYO, THERE ARE COUNTRIES AT WAR, TOO AND TIME DIFFERENCES AND PEOPLE WHO ARE SICK.
WHEN I SAW THAT ARTICLE, I WAS REALLY EXCITED IT WAS LIKE, "HEY! I THOUGHT THE SAME THING!"
"THE MOMENT ALL OF HUMANITY FEELS HAPPINESS." OZAKI WROTE ABOUT THAT, TOO
AND I THINK, "HEY! THAT MIGHT'VE BEEN THE MOMENT ALL OF HUMANITY FEELS HAPPINESS!" DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEAN?
LIKE SOMETIMES SOMETHING GOOD WILL HAPPEN TO ME, AND WHEN I LOOK AROUND, I SUDDENLY FEEL LIKE EVERYONE I SEE IS HAPPY, TOO
NO WAY. SEE: THERE'S A COUPLE FIGHTING OVER THERE.
OH, THEY'RE MAKING UP
IT JUST MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. IT'D BE AMAZING IF IT DID HAPPEN.


OZAKI
I THOUGHT IT WAS MEANINGLESS TO THINK ABOUT DREAMS AND SUCH FRIVOLOUS THINGS
Ah!
WHEN I'M WITH RYO..
EVERYTHING LOOKS NEW.
..CONTINUES DAY AFTER DAY
..THE HAPPINESS YOU FEEL IN YOUR HEART.
THE HAPPINESS YOU GET FROM A FULL STOMACH EVENTUALLY ENDS, BUT


IT'S A WOMAN.
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
YOU HAVE THE GUITAR?
YES? WHAT?
Employment Magazine
ピンポーン♪

YOU'RE THE WOMAN WITH THE GUITAR!
I'LL SELL THE GUITAR BACK TO YOU
I'LL BE WAITING IN THE TELEPHONE IN FRONT OF N BUILDING
...
SAKURA!
WELL HELLO YOSHIOKA

AAAAH! I HAVE TO GIVE THE MONEY TO KEN TODAY OR ELSE! IF I DON'T HURRY, HE'LL END UP GOING TO THAT WOMAN!
KEN!
I DON'T WANT TO BREAK UP!
RIGHT NOW.
OR I'LL KILL YOU
WELL THEN
GIVE ME $800 $400 WILL DO FOR NOW.
WH-WHEN DO YOU NEED IT?
Bought a Guitar
Like this
Please call back to me!
69-6969
NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D SHOW UP IN SUSUKINO, TOO
SO YOU NEVER WENT HOME?
BUT I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T COME IF YOU KNEW IT WAS ME, SO I DISGUISED MY VOICE.
WHEN I SAW THIS, I REALIZED IT WAS YOUR CELL PHONE NUMBER. BECAUSE IT WAS SUCH A STUPID NUMBER.
IT-IT'S JUST STRANGE IF HE REALLY ..OVES YOU ..
SO WHAT? WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
SAKURA, ARE YOU GIVING SOMEONE MONEY? AND IS THAT BLACK EYE FROM THAT KEN PERSON TOO?
I SAW YOU WALKING WITH A GUY YESTERDAY IS HE YOUR BOYFRIEND? DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A BIT OLD-FASHIONED?
YOU DID LOOK REALLY HAPPY, THOUGH..
...
Ha ha ha!
ぶ、ぼ、
WHAT'S GOIN ON, YOSHIDA? IT'S ..IKE YOU'RE SOMEONE ELSE

OW.
ARE YOU LISTENIN' TO ME?
YOU THINK YOU'RE SLICK?
YOU DID MY GUY, EIJI, AND AFTER THAT, EVERYTHING TURNED TO CRAP
GOT IT? IT'S YOUR FAULT!
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS TWO-TIMING KEN.
$400! YOU CAN MAKE IT QUICK WITH JUST TWO CUSTOMERS
I CAN'T GET ANY CUSTOMERS WITH THIS FACE.
I'VE DECIDED TO STOP SELLING MYSELF!
I'LL GET THE $400 WORKING SOME OTHER JOB!
SO PLEASE..
WHAT, WITH THESE KINDS OF CRAPPY JOBS? GET REAL!
YOU CAN MAKE IT ALL IN ONE SHOT.
DON'T START GETTIN' AN ATTITUDE NOW!
YOU'VE HAD HUNDREDS OF CUSTOMERS BEFORE. THIS AIN'T NO DIFFERENT.

Noo!
SAKURA..
COME ON, I'M BEGGIN' YA! I'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT WHAT YOU DID BACK THEN! JUST THIS ONCE! I'M SURE I CAN REALLY BE HAPPY THIS TIME!
I'LL TELL YOUR LITTLE BOYFRIEND ALL ABOUT HOW YOU SOLD YOUR BODY FOR MONEY. GOT IT?
IF YOU DON'T..
NO!
D-DON'T!
SLIM
YES, THAT'S RIGHT I'LL BE WAITING THERE
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE ME BY MY LONG HAIR.

ポン
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY YOU CAN MAKE MONEY YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
GO ALL THE WAY YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING BUT SELL YOUR BODY.
THAT'S PROBABLY HIM
YOU BETTER NOT RUN AWAY
I
I WANTED TO KEEP THE KIND OF LIFE I FOUND WITH RYO.
I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE HIM

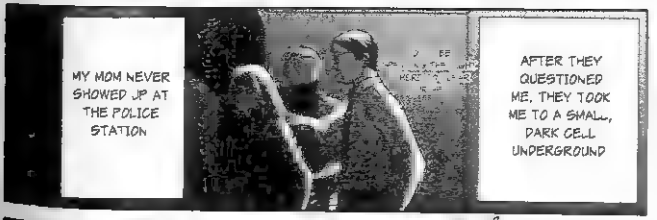
IT WILL BE $400
$400, ALL AT ONCE.
THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME, SO.

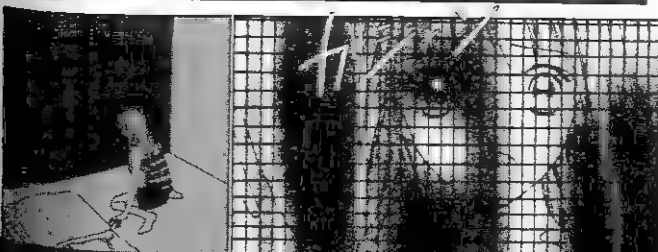
I'M SORRY, RYO!

YOU DO REALIZE THAT THIS IS PROSTITUTION, RIGHT?

ROKKAKU POLICE
GET UP!
HUH?
I'M BEING TAKEN TO THE POLICE STATION!
I'M BEING ARRESTED!

YOUR MOTHER PUT IN A REQUEST THAT WE SEARCH FOR YOU
IT'S LIKE MY ENTIRE MIND HAS GONE COMPLETELY BLANK
EH. UM.
ARE YOU LISTENING?
SATSUKI YOSHIOKA, 16 YEARS OLD, UNEMPLOYED
REPORT
CASTER
ISN'T THIS DIFFERENT FROM YOUR REAL ADDRESS? ARE YOU LIVING WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND?
SAPPORO CITY, TEINE WARD.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO HOME ANY TIME SOON
WE HAVE TO DRAW UP THE PAPERS TO SEND YOU TO THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE.


MY MOM NEVER SHOWED UP AT THE POLICE STATION
AFTER THEY QUESTIONED ME, THEY TOOK ME TO A SMALL, DARK CELL UNDERGROUND



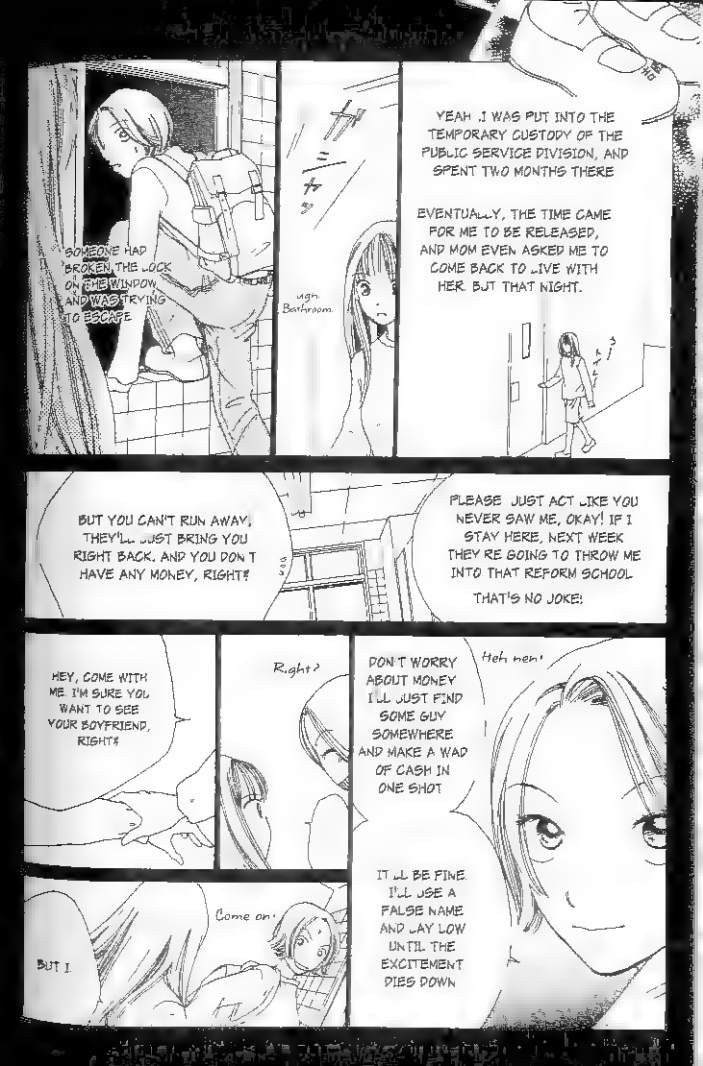
THE NEXT DAY
L-LET ME GO! I CAN'T GO THERE!
MY MOM SAID I WAS TOO MUCH TROUBLE AND REFUSED TO BE MY GUARDIAN, SO I WAS SENT TO JUVENILE HALL.
AT FAMILY COURT, THEY TOLD ME IF I DID IT AGAIN, I'D BE OUT, AND I THOUGHT THEY'D LET ME GO WITH THAT, BUT.
I CAN'T GO HOME, BUT I HAVE A PLACE TO LIVE!
I'LL GO BACK TO RYO'S PLACE! RYO IS WAITING FOR ME!
I'M SURE HE'S WORRIED
OH, YOUR BOYFRIEND YOU WERE LIVING WITH WE SENT HIM A MESSAGE.
HUH?
WE NOTIFIED HIM THAT YOU WERE ARRESTED FOR PROSTITUTION
NOW GET IN, PLEASE
SATSUKI!

RYO!
DON'T GO, SATSUKI!
NOW LOOK HERE, YOUNG MAN I ALREADY EXPLAINED SHE'S NOT JUST A RUNAWAY.
I'M SURE THERE HAS TO BE A REASON!
THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME SHE'S DONE PROSTITUTION.
I'LL BE HER GUARDIAN!
I'LL BE HER GUARDIAN, ANYTHING, JUST PLEASE..
ONCE GIRLS LIKE HER KEEP PROSTITUTING THEMSELVES, THEIR LIVES ARE ALREADY OVER. GIRLS LIKE THAT ARE ROTTEN TO THE CORE
OF COURSE THERE'S A REASON SHE PROBABLY JUST LOVES MONEY AND SEX
SATSUKI'S DIFFERENT.

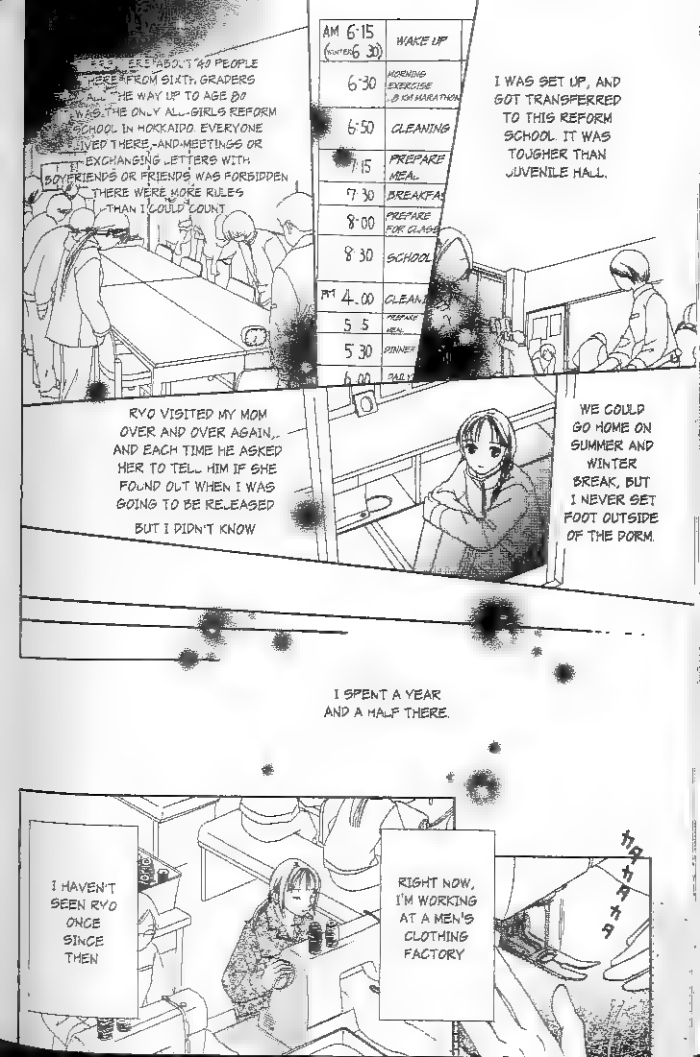
SATSUKI'S NOT ROTTEN! THIS ISN'T THE END!
SATSUKI!

I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO FIND OUT ABOUT MY PAST, OR ABOUT SELLING MY BODY THAT NIGHT
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER FELT ASHAMED OF MYSELF
UNTIL THE VERY END, I COULD NEVER BEAR TO FACE HIM.
UP UNTIL THEN, I THOUGHT THAT ONLY THE MEN WHO BOUGHT ME WERE THE REAL CRIMINALS
BUT WHILE I WAS BEING QUESTIONED, IT FINALLY HIT ME I WASN'T ARRESTED BECAUSE I WAS THE VICTIM. I WAS ARRESTED BECAUSE I WAS THE SUSPECT
THE MOMENT THE OFFICER SHOWED ME HIS BADGE, I REMEMBER THINKING, "WHY? YOU'RE ARRESTING ME? IS WHAT I'M DOING REALLY SO BAD?!"
SO WHEN I HEARD THAT MY MOM REFUSED TO BE MY GUARDIAN, I FELT VERY LONELY
I THOUGHT, "I CAN'T LIVE IN THAT HOUSE WITH MY MOTHER. I'LL LIVE ON MY OWN." AND I DID WHATEVER I WANTED. I THOUGHT THAT IF I EVER GOT INTO TROUBLE, I COULD GO BACK HOME. SINCE I HAD A HOME TO GO BACK TO, I FELT SAFE NO MATTER WHERE I WENT

I'VE MADE A LOT OF MISTAKES
NOW, I'M JUST GOING ON WITH MY LIFE PRETENDING THAT NOTHING HAPPENED.
BUT IF MY MOM HAD COME TO PICK ME UP THAT DAY, I THINK I WOULD'VE GONE RIGHT TO HIS APARTMENT
RYO'S A GREAT GUY!
YOSHIOKA, WOULD YOU MIND TELLING THAT STORY AGAIN AT THE MEETING NEXT MONTH?
Huh?
UM, SURE
ALL RIGHT, WORK TIME! HURRY UP, HURRY UP!
AWRIGHT!
BUT HEY, JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER AND YOUR STAY HERE WILL BE OVER. ARE YOU GOING TO TRY TO ESCAPE AGAIN YOSHIOKA?
IF YOU DO, DON'T GET CAUGHT THAT'S WHAT GOT YOU HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE, RIGHT?


SOMEONE HAD BROKEN THE LOCK ON THE WINDOW AND WAS TRYING TO ESCAPE
ugh Bathroom
YEAH .I WAS PUT INTO THE TEMPORARY CUSTODY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE DIVISION, AND SPENT TWO MONTHS THERE
EVENTUALLY, THE TIME CAME FOR ME TO BE RELEASED, AND MOM EVEN ASKED ME TO COME BACK TO LIVE WITH HER. BUT THAT NIGHT.
BUT YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY, THEY'LL JUST BRING YOU RIGHT BACK. AND YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY, RIGHT?
PLEASE JUST ACT LIKE YOU NEVER SAW ME, OKAY! IF I STAY HERE, NEXT WEEK THEY'RE GOING TO THROW ME INTO THAT REFORM SCHOOL
THAT'S NO JOKE!
HEY, COME WITH ME. I'M SURE YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?
Right?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT MONEY I'LL JUST FIND SOME GUY SOMEWHERE AND MAKE A WAD OF CASH IN ONE SHOT
Heh heh
IT'LL BE FINE. I'LL USE A FALSE NAME AND LAY LOW UNTIL THE EXCITEMENT DIES DOWN
BUT I
Come on!

I'M NOT GOING TO RUN AWAY
I DON'T WANT TO USE A FALSE NAME OR HIDE MY REAL IDENTITY ANYMORE.
SO I CAN BEAR TO FACE RYO AGAIN.
SO I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO HIDE ANYMORE.
I WANT TO LIVE MY LIFE AS "SATSUKI YOSHIOKA."
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
LET ME GO!
I'M NOT GOING TO RUN AWAY
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG! YOSHIOKA WAS TRYING TO FORCE ME TO ESCAPE WITH HER!
SHE WAS THE ONE WHO BROKE THE LOCK, TOO


THERE WERE ABOUT 40 PEOPLE THERE FROM SIXTH GRADERS ALL THE WAY UP TO AGE 20
IT WAS THE ONLY ALL-GIRLS REFORM SCHOOL IN HOKKAIDO. EVERYONE LIVED THERE, AND MEETINGS OR EXCHANGING LETTERS WITH BOYFRIENDS OR FRIENDS WAS FORBIDDEN
THERE WERE MORE RULES THAN I COULD COUNT
AM 6:15 (WAKE UP)
6:30 MORNING EXERCISE ...B FOR MARATHON
6:50 CLEANING
7:15 PREPARE MEAL
7:30 BREAKFA
8:00 PREPARE FOR CLASS
8:30 SCHOOL
PM 4:00 CLEAN
5:5 PREPARE MEAL
5:30 DINNER
I WAS SET UP, AND GOT TRANSFERRED TO THIS REFORM SCHOOL. IT WAS TOUGHER THAN JUVENILE HALL.
RYO VISITED MY MOM OVER AND OVER AGAIN, AND EACH TIME HE ASKED HER TO TELL HIM IF SHE FOUND OUT WHEN I WAS GOING TO BE RELEASED
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW
WE COULD GO HOME ON SUMMER AND WINTER BREAK, BUT I NEVER SET FOOT OUTSIDE OF THE DORM.
I SPENT A YEAR AND A HALF THERE.
I HAVEN'T SEEN RYO ONCE SINCE THEN
RIGHT NOW, I'M WORKING AT A MEN'S CLOTHING FACTORY
HAHAHA

THANK YOU. I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO MEET YOU RYO
I WANTED TO SHARE THESE FEELINGS WITH RYO
AH, IT TURNED!
BUT WHEN I THINK THAT MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, RYO IS WEARING A SUIT THAT I MADE, IT MAKES ME KIND OF HAPPY
YOSHIOKA! LET'S HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER!
OKAY!
BUT NOW I FEEL LIKE I'VE BECOME A *PERSON* NAMED SATSUKI YOSHIOKA.
WHEN WE MADE LOVE THAT DAY, I WAS JUST A "WOMAN."
THE END

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1

COMING SOON

CONFIDENTIAL CONFESSIONS

VOLUME TWO

Chika Suzuki chose to attend an exclusive all-girls high school because of the famous tennis coach who works there. But this coach isn't exactly what she expected. He says and does things to the members of the team that could be seen as sexual harassment and when she finally decides to tell her parents about it, she faces even more problems. The odds are against her, but she acts on the side of justice and bravely confronts a hot-button social issue that affects millions of women around the globe!

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFESSIONS
prostitution
RAPE
REIKO MOMOCHI
1
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CONFIDENTIAL CONFESSIONS

"THE DOOR"

Only for people with steady mentality!!!

If, at some moment while reading the story,
you feel like jumping out of the window
(for instance), please first read the whole story!!!,
in order not to regret that you are gone before
seeing the real end!

Scanned by Jelena

REIKO MOMOCHI

1

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